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Christians killed in Chinese crackdown

WASHINGTON (BP)—Two Christians have been killed in the Chinese government's crackdown on pastor Gong Shengliang and his South China Church in central Hubei Province, according to a letter from members of the underground church revealing graphic details and new information about the persecution.

Gong was sentenced to death Dec. 5 on charges of operating an "evil cult" and on the seemingly trumped-up charges of rape and assault. The month-long period for deciding his appeal was extended Jan. 5 by a Hubei court following sharp international protest.

The letter, written by two underground Christian women, Li Ailian and Wang Yue, reports that in efforts to find and apprehend Gong and suppress the South China Church, police arrested and severely beat at least 25 Christians, killing two of them, while torturing others with electric prods.

The letter was dated Dec. 31 and smuggled to the New York-based Committee for Investigation on Persecution of Religion in China. It was released Jan. 11 by Freedom House in Washington.

The two victims who reportedly died were:

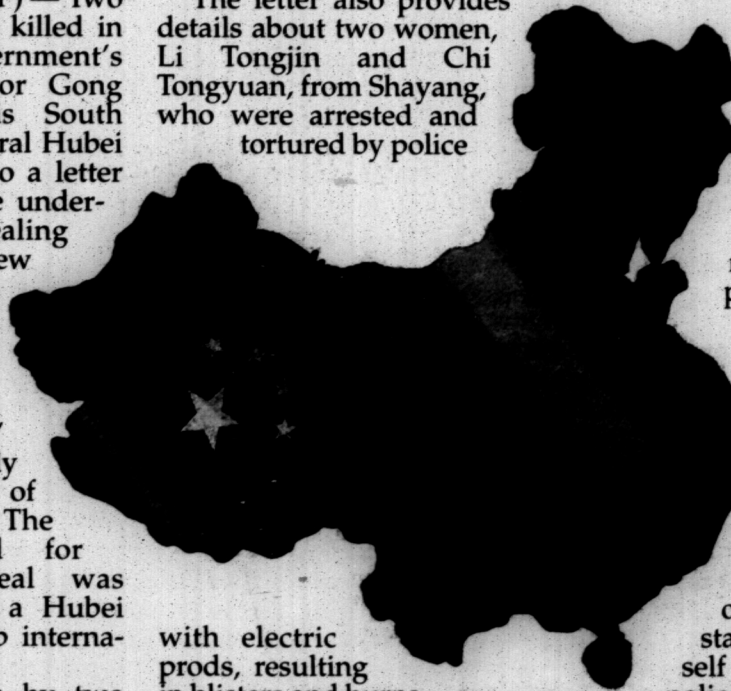
- Yu Zhongju, a young mother from Zhongxiang who was arrested May 27 in a private house connected with Gong's congregation. She died in police custody in late July, allegedly as a result of torture.

According to her family, police informed them of Yu's death July 20, after her body had begun to decompose. The police paid the family, warning them not to raise the matter further. There has been no official investigation of the case.

- Gu Xuegui, a Christian man also connected with Gong's church, who disappeared while in police custody, probably sometime in October.

A congregant from Puyang City in Henan Province last saw Gu in a prison vehicle with his face showing signs of beatings. His family later received information that he had died under severe torture.

The letter also provides details about two women, Li Tongjin and Chi Tongyuan, from Shayang, who were arrested and tortured by police



with electric prods, resulting in blisters and burns all over their bodies. The torture was reported to have been

used to force them to testify that they had sexual relations with Gong. One woman was later able to telephone her brother and report her situation, saying, "... be ready to come to pick up my body. I might either be beaten to death or sentenced to death."

The letter reports numerous other cases from May through December of brutal police beatings of the congregants. It states that Gong himself was apprehended by police on Aug. 8 and was kicked and beaten by government security forces.

In a separate communication from the South China Church, Freedom House obtained the names of 63 men and women of the church who were arrested between May and December in Hubei, Henan, Hebei, and Sichuan provinces.

The South China Church is known within the Chinese underground Christian community and to churches in the United States.

Li Guangqiang, a Hong Kong resident, was also recently issued an "evil cult" indictment, possibly carrying the death penalty, by a Fujian court, for smuggling 33,000 Bibles into China.

Editor's note: The names of the detainees from the South China Church congregation and the Dec. 31 letter are available on the Center for Religious Freedom website at: www.freedomhouse.org.

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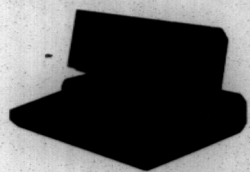
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A new slogan for Mississippi

Charles E. Wilson, the late former president of General Motors, is credited with uttering the infamous axiom, "What's good for General Motors is good for the country." That quote is actually a partial paraphrase of Wilson's 1953 testimony before the U.S. Senate during his confirmation hearings to be the Secretary of Defense, but nevertheless he has been derided for nearly 50 years for arrogantly attempting to link the fortunes of the American public to a single company.

In the Mississippi of today, we apparently have a roughly equivalent slogan: What's good for gamblers is good for the state. As the gambling/political complex annually tightens its grip on the Mississippi public, more and more perverse examples come to light.

Nary a road can be built in a casino county without considering the impact on the gambling industry. Will the road divert traffic from the gambling houses? Will more automobiles filled with thirsty gamblers end up in the parking lot of one politically-connected casino instead of another politically-connected casino?

Statewide, educational decision-making is based on the whims of gambling revenue. Coastal tidelands are being driven to extinction as huge Las Vegas corporations rush to gobble up ever more land for ever larger casinos.

When a notorious Nevada casino developer openly violates his building permit by adding unapproved floors to his new casino on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, lives are put at risk in the flight path of a nearby airport. Local officials' response? A wink and a nod and a variance on the permit.

All in all, Mississippi has become another Nevada — only without the wealth. Casino corporations continue to annually transport dollars out of the state by the billions, but we don't seem to mind. Quite the contrary, as a matter of fact.

The latest example of the long reach of the gambling/political complex comes from the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT), which at some point in the recent past decided casinos needed special signs to funnel even more business their way.

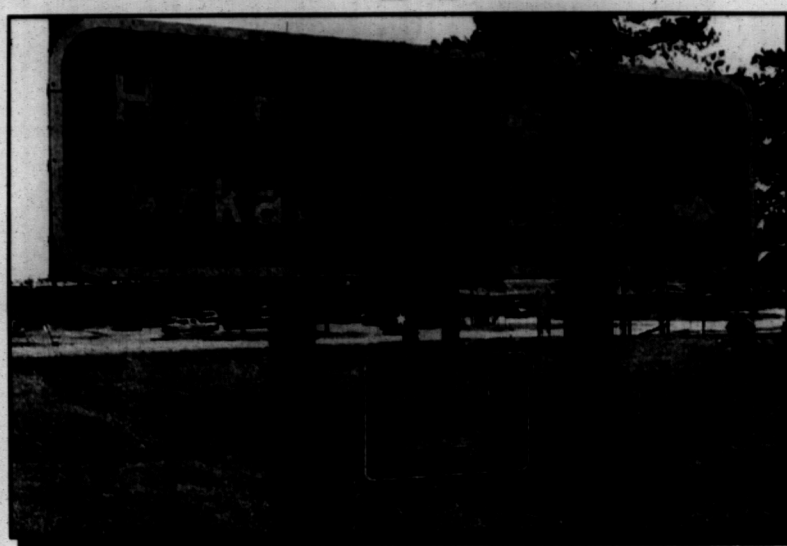
Like parasites on a mighty oak, casino directional signs have been attached to official highway signs on state right-of-way. Convenience stores, fast-food restaurants, and gas stations at the same intersection aren't allowed by MDOT to advertise in the same way, but Mississippi's transportation commissioners have an explanation.

Southern District Commissioner Wayne H. Brown, chairman and spokesman for the Mississippi Transportation Commission, responded to a recent inquiry from *The Baptist Record* by noting that the signs "are merely meant as directional signs or, are referred to under the MDOT Standard Operating Procedure as 'Recreational and Cultural Interest Area Signs.'"

Well. Casinos have come a long way, moving rather rapidly from private, billion-dollar money machines to "Recreational and Cultural Interest" areas. You know, like the ruins of Windsor or Dunn's Falls. Vicksburg Military Park or Grenada Lake. Beauvoir or the Casey Jones Museum.

Yes, our state's ubiquitous casinos are considered by MDOT officials to be of such value to Mississippi's image that they are deserving of special signs along our state's highways and byways, many miles from the actual casino locations.

Perhaps the commissioners would be so kind as to designate Mississippi Baptist



churches as "Recreational and Cultural Interest" areas deserving of special signs. Think about it. Many of our churches have pioneered recreational facilities in areas where such facilities still don't exist.

A lot of Baptist churches are cultural landmarks for various historical reasons. The land on which many of our churches rest has hosted significant political, military, and cultural events.

Surely all of that can count toward MDOT's rather loose definition of "Recreational and Cultural Interest" areas.

If you think Mississippi would be well-served by such church designations or you simply find the special casino signs to be a disgrace, maybe you should contact the commissioners.

Their names are the aforementioned Wayne H. Brown (Southern District), along with Dick Hall (Central District) and Zack Stewart (Northern District). The commissioners' mailing address is P.O. Box 1850, Jackson, MS 39215-1850.

Act now, and your church could be the first in town to receive the same favorable treatment as Mississippi's gambling interests. As they say in the casinos, what a deal!

PART 1 OF 3

Cable TV, satellite dishes and the Internet have not only brought America together — they have shaped the way people process truth and life. They have shaped values and thinking patterns. This is not just a big city issue or a West Coast issue. People everywhere are processing life in radically different ways. The media have been a primary source for the introduction of postmodernism, which is a great contributor to these changes.

Over the next three weeks I will highlight a few issues surrounding postmodernism. You may not know the terms, but you, your family members, and your church cannot escape its influence.

Modernity started around the Renaissance and Reformation. Modernity was built around scientific discovery, truth, individualism, and human progress. Modernists believed that man could perceive and know absolute truth simply through the rational mind.

Postmodernism is a 20th century development and is impossible to precisely describe. In general, postmodernism is a rejection of many components of modernity. Postmodernism highlights experience, subjective knowledge, community, and prefer-

GUEST OPINION:



Postmodernism in America

By Will McRaney, Asst. Prof. of Evang.
New Orleans Seminary

ence. In essence, everything that was thought to be absolute is now being debated and reexamined. Some positive and negative implications for the church will be examined at a later date.

Modernity and postmodernity mean very different things. Postmodernity has a range of influence on people from very little to complete immersion. An illustration might help us grasp the difference:

Three umpires were sitting around before a game talking about their job. The first umpire (thoroughly modern) said, "There are balls and there are strikes and I call them." The second umpire (a bit of both) said, "There are balls and there are strikes and I call them as I see them."

The last umpire (thoroughly postmodern) said, "There are balls and there are strikes,

and they aren't anything till I call them."

Our world and people are changing rapidly. However, our message and task has not changed. We are called to effectively communicate the hope of Jesus Christ within us and encourage people to follow Christ in a dynamic relationship with him and others. So, we should seek to understand not only postmodernism, but how people are influenced by it. If you are not predominately postmodern yourself, you may have children and probably have grandchildren who are.

Christians have the most important message known in the history of the world. If we are unable to connect lost people with this life-changing message, it will be said of us like it was said in Judges 2:10, "another generation grew up, who knew

neither the Lord nor what he had done for Israel." Learning to share our faith in a postmodern world must be a priority!

Since I am a professor, let me make an assignment. Interview seven to 10 unchurched adults under age 35. Focus on listening, not trying to convince or debate. Posture yourself as someone who is seeking to understand what people are thinking and feeling, which is the goal of the interviews. You might be pleasantly surprised how open people are to talk with you about spiritual matters.

The following are questions you might ask: To you, what is God like? Describe God. What do you think is important and not important to God?

How would you describe your religious background and church involvement (if any)? What do you think it takes to be straightened out with God?

Describe what the term Jesus Christ means to you. From your perspective, what are churches trying to do?

McRaney will lead the Pastor and Staff Workshop February 11 at First Church, Richland. Questions for the workshop may be submitted to McRaney via e-mail at questions@MEGnet.org.

For information on the workshop, contact kmcdonnell@mbcb.org.

Burden for nations inspires seminary prof.

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — George Martin's call to reach lost persons in far-flung places did not come with the profundity of fire from heaven. There were no signs and wonders that told him to take the Gospel to the heathen — just Scripture.

"I had always imagined, in order to be a missionary, that something extraordinary or even miraculous had to take place," the Seminary professor said. "You know, sort of like the Lord writing in the sky with a cloud formation: 'George, go to Southeast Asia!' Nothing like that ever happened to Donna (his wife) and me.

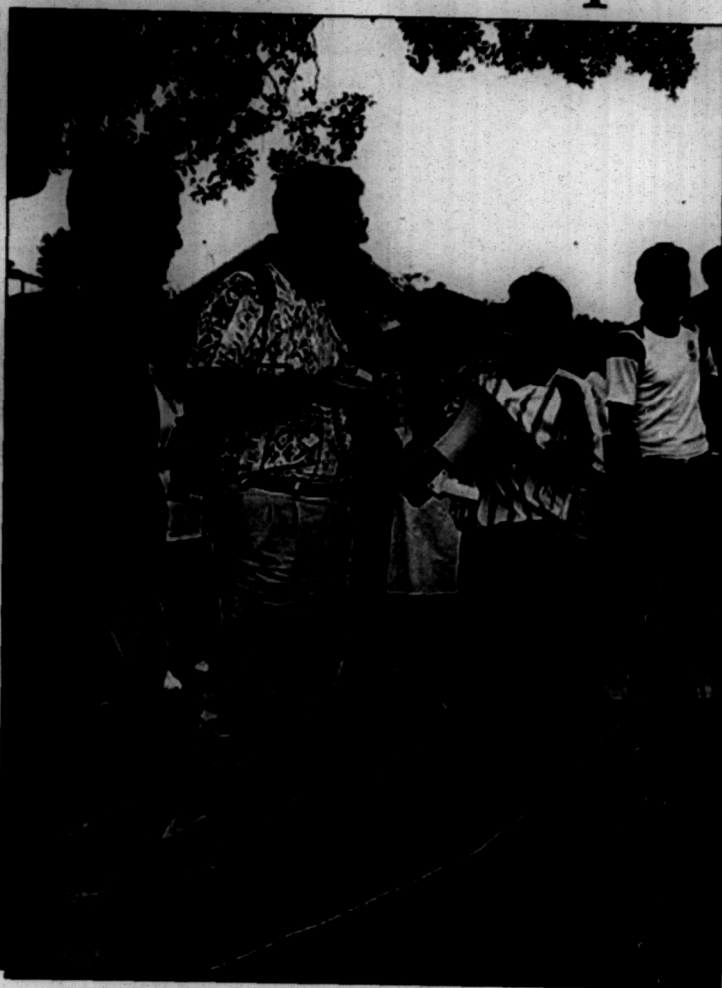
"I'll tell you what got us — it was the Bible. At one point it seemed that on just about every page to which we turned in the Scriptures, there was the instruction to go into all the world with the Gospel."

Martin, who is now professor of Christian missions at Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky., was pastoring Kosmosdale Church in Louisville, Ky., in the late 1980s when he sensed the irresistible call to the mission field by God through his Word.

From 1988 to 1994, Martin and wife worked as missionaries in Jakarta, Indonesia. It was the lighting of a flame of passion that burns brightly in Martin today as he works to train young missionaries.

In 1994, he took a teaching position as associate professor of religion at North Greenville College in Tigerville, S.C., before coming to Southern in 1996.

Today, his priority is God and seeing his Word shared authentically and in power to the nations.



ON THE FIELD — Southern Seminary missions professor George Martin (center) shares a laugh with friends during a recent missions trip to Southeast Asia. (BP photo by Ryder Lewis)

"My passion is God," he said. "To know him is to love him. To know the Savior is to desire him above all others. I really want others, all over the world, to know God as he truly is.

"One of my favorite sections of the Bible is chapters 40-48 of Isaiah. The prophet offers wonderful words of comfort to the exiled people of Israel.

"Essentially, he declares to them that if they have any hope at all, that hope is to be found in their God. In those chapters, it seems that Isaiah is painting a verbal picture of God, who he is and what he is like.

"Chapter after chapter, verse after verse, he speaks of the

divine attributes and of the Lord's greatness and majesty and uniqueness."

In Indonesia, Martin served as founder, professor, and academic dean at Jakarta Baptist Seminary. Martin, his wife, and their two children were assigned to Jakarta by the International Mission Board to establish the new seminary.

The institution took root and today has an enrollment of approximately 45 students. During that time, he also served as a professor at the Asia Baptist Graduate Seminary. The Martins' third child, Rachel, was born while the family was in Jakarta.

While the teaching experience was fruitful and edifying, Martin found his most satisfying joy in being a mentor and trusted friend to his Indonesian students. "There is a big difference between theological education there and here in terms of being able to spend time with the students," he said.

"There, I got the opportunity to be out with my students preaching and teaching the Gospel, and there was much more of a student-professor relationship. I got to do a lot of mentoring which I found great joy in. "When we were in Jakarta, I used to think, 'I can't believe that the Southern Baptist Convention actually pays me to do this. I would pay them to do this.'"

Missions was far from Martin's mind during his formative years. He grew up in central Florida in a conservative Southern Baptist congregation.

"I don't remember a strong emphasis on missions from my years there," he said. "Yes, we collected [those] offerings, and there were some dear, saintly ladies who were always on fire when it came to missions.

While he was pastor at Kosmosdale Church, the urge to undertake missions quickly took root and grew to full flower. Working in theological education seemed a natural.

During the time Martin was working on a doctor of theology degree at New Orleans Seminary in the late 1970s, he taught introduction to Old Testament. In 1982, he also served as a member of the auxiliary faculty at William Carey College in Hattiesburg.

Martin said he loves mentoring students, teaching them how to carry out God-centered missions, and seeing a fire for missions stoked in those who previously were stone cold.

Record

MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

THE
SECOND
FRONT PAGE

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Posters purchased

LAKE CITY, Fla. (BP) — When the ladies' ministry of Berea Church began studying and praying the prayer of Jabez, they could not dream of how God would "enlarge their territory." Yvette Grant, the missions leader of the ministry of the Lake City, Fla., congregation, and ladies ministry leader Carolyn Norris suggested that they provide "In God We Trust" posters to every classroom of the Columbia City Elementary School. They received permission from the principal and ordered the posters and frames, at \$3.30 per framed poster. After seeing the posters, other school principals requested that the group provide 730 framed posters, enough for every classroom in Columbia County. Several school administrators also asked for posters for their offices. The group of about 16 ladies agreed to the task and began raising the \$2,500 needed. It was a big project for the ministry and its 85-member church of which Grant's husband, Troy, is pastor. Several churches in the rural Beulah Association gave money to the project and rejoiced in the schools' interest in the posters. Proponents of the displays have won several battles in court with the ACLU. The Berea Church ladies actually raised more money than was needed for the project, but they anticipate hearing from other parents' groups and churches that want to launch a similar project in their communities. "We want to donate our leftover funds to another community who wants to start this in another county in Florida," Grant told the Florida Baptist Witness.

Looking back

10 years ago

According to a recent editorial in The Baptist Record, not everyone needs a computer. If your church doesn't keep records, purchase a bulletin, or if the pastor is not interested in producing better sermons or Bible studies, then a computer becomes an expensive paperweight, the newspaper states.

20 years ago

Evangelist Arthur Blessitt speaks to participants at the Mississippi Baptist Youth Evangelism Conference at Mississippi College in Clinton. A total of 2,205 young people registered for the conference. A total of nine professions of faith were recorded.

50 years ago

The Temperance Committee of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, meeting in an all-day session, reiterates its stand against beverage alcohol in all forms, declaring its opposition to repealing or weakening current liquor laws, and reaffirming its faith in the United Dry Association.

Legislators arrive for session, consider bills

By Jimmy Porter, Exec. Dir.
Miss. Bapt. Christian Action Comm.

Americans turning to Internet

WASHINGTON (BP) — An estimated 28 million Americans have tapped the Internet for religious/spiritual information, up by as many as nine million people in a year's time, according to the Pew Internet & American Life project. The number of people using the Internet on a daily basis to get such information has increased to three million, up from two million, according to the Pew project's Dec. 23 comparison with survey data from a year earlier.

The Pew project calls those who use the Internet to seek religious or spiritual information "religion surfers" who regard the Internet as "a useful supplemental tool that enhances their already-deep commitment to their beliefs and their churches, synagogues, or mosques."

The Pew Internet & American Life project is based in Washington, D.C. The report, can be accessed at <http://www.pewinternet.org/reports/toc.asp?Report=53>.

The 2002 Mississippi Legislature convened on January 8 to consider several hundred filed bills and resolutions. The Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission (CAC) will monitor several of these bills that are of possible interest to Mississippi Baptists.

These bills will be posted and tracked on our web site at www.christianaction.com. For additional information, call CAC at (601) 968-3329 or toll free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 329. Fax: (601) 292-3350. E-mail: rwood@mbcb.org. Mailing address: P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

ALCOHOL & OTHER DRUGS

House Bill (HB) 16 lowers the blood alcohol content level for a Driving Under the Influence (DUI) charge from .10 to .08, and stipulates that penalties for violations shall not be suspended or reduced by the court. CAC recommendation: Support.

HB 19 creates a statewide system of drug court treatment programs in all the circuit court districts. CAC recommendation: Support.

HB 78 makes it a felony to bring any controlled substance into a state, county, or municipal facility. CAC recommendation: Support.

HB 117 creates as an offense of non-restaurant licensee for selling alcoholic beverages to persons under 21 on its premises who are not in the company of a parent, guardian, or spouse who is at least 21 years of age. CAC recommendation: Support.

HB 118 and **HB 119** clarify the sentencing of adults and for those under age 21 for felony offenses that result in death or mutilation as result of a person driving under the influence. CAC recommendation: Support.

HB 263 doubles the penalties for those who manufacture crystal methamphetamine where children (under the age of 18) are present. CAC recommendation: Support.

HB 344 provides a trial judge the option of suspending the driver's license of a minor who unlawfully possesses or purchases alcoholic beverages, beer, or light wine in lieu of conviction for such offenses. CAC recommendation: Support.

HB 583 includes the death of an unborn fetus in DUI manslaughter cases. CAC recommendation: Support.

HB 588 prohibits certain "drive through" sales of alcohol beverages, light wine, and beer. CAC recommendation: Support.

HB 607 grants to the enforcement officers of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Division of the State Tax Commission the authority to assist in the enforcement of the law regulating light wine and beer. CAC recommendation: Support.

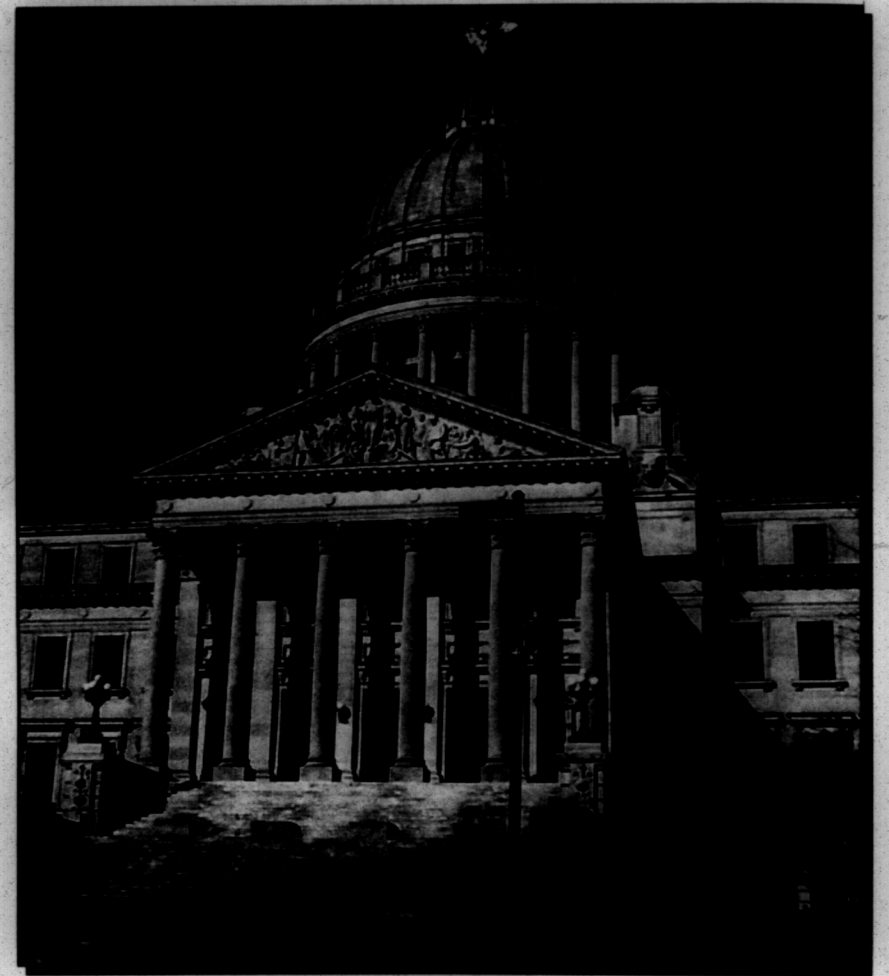
Senate Bill (SB) 2046 provides for the separate convictions for multiple injuries or deaths caused by a drunken driver even though all injuries or deaths arise from one act of DUI. CAC recommendation: Support.

SB 2063 prohibits the possession of an open alcoholic beverage, light wine, or beer container or the consumption thereof within the passenger compartment of a motor vehicle. CAC recommendation: Support.

SB 2166 authorizes the sale of light wine or beer at qualified resort areas in counties in which the light wine or beer is otherwise prohibited. CAC recommendation: Oppose.

CHILDREN

HB 31 creates as an offense the endangering of an unborn child by intentionally injuring a pregnant woman, and it establishes penalties for said violations. CAC recommendation: Support.



Mississippi State Capitol, Jackson

HB 116 stipulates that gambling and lottery winnings be subject to child support judgments. CAC recommendation: Support.

HB 254 & SB 2154 deny bail to persons convicted of sexual battery of a minor and felony child abuse. CAC recommendation: Support.

SB 2048 prohibits the sale of violent video games to minors. CAC recommendation: Support.

SB 2123 prescribes the penalty of manslaughter to be charged for a female's use of a controlled substance resulting in the death of an unborn fetus at 20 weeks or more gestational age. CAC recommendation: Support.

FAMILY

HB 304 establishes irreconcilable differences as the thirteenth grounds for divorce in Mississippi. CAC recommendation: Oppose.

HB 361 prohibits the use of tax dollars for abortions. CAC recommendation: Support.

HB 362 & SB 2026 create a distinctive "Choose Life" motor vehicle license tag and provides that a portion of the fee charged shall be dispersed to the Choose Life Advisory Council to support crisis pregnancy centers throughout the state. CAC recommendation: Support.

SB 2042 prohibits the dissemination of indecent materials online to minors for the specific purpose of inducing them to engage in sexual acts. CAC recommendation: Support.

GAMBLING

HB 241 gives permission to the university and community colleges to teach gaming related courses. CAC recommendation: Oppose.

HB 585 clarifies the definition of unlawful gambling devices. CAC recommendation: Support.

RELIGION

HB 63 provides immunity to pharmacies operated by churches for charitable purposes only. CAC recommendation: Support.

SB 2090 is known as the "Religious Freedom Restoration Act" and it stipulates that the state of Mississippi and its political subdivisions shall not burden a person's exercise of religion. CAC recommendation: Support.

SB 2148 authorizes the displaying of the Ten Commandments on or within property owned or administered by the state or its political subdivisions. CAC recommendation: Support.

OTHERS

HB 40, HB 80, HB 355 & SB 2126 require voters to provide valid identification before voting or to sign a statement under oath affirming that they are the individuals identified on the poll books. CAC recommendation: Support.

HB 178 makes it illegal for an employer to use genetic testing for discriminatory purposes. CAC recommendation: Support.

HB 183 & HB 258 prohibit discrimination by insurance companies based on genetic information. CAC recommendation: Support.

SB 2010 establishes as a criminal offense the willful exposure of another to HIV. CAC recommendation: Support.

Persons desiring to contact legislators about specific bills may do so by calling the Capitol at (601) 359-3770, or by writing to legislators at P.O. Box 1018, Jackson, MS 39215-1018. To contact a legislator by e-mail, visit www.ls.state.ms.us.

Plans unveiled for new Mo. group

SEDALIA, Mo. (BP) — For the first time, a group of Baptist moderates is headed toward breaking away from a state convention to form its own convention, a step previously taken by conservatives leaving state conventions in Texas and Virginia.

The annual meeting of the proposed new group, possibly to be named the Baptist Convention of Missouri, is tentatively set for Jan. 17 at First Church in St. Louis.

The meeting will focus on a convention name, constitution and bylaws and setting in place a leadership structure, organizers told about 350 people from more than 100 Missouri Baptist churches attending an information and planning meeting Jan. 17 at First Church, Sedalia.

The church's pastor, Drew Hill, is one of the proposed convention's organizers.

"We are here today because these are difficult days for Missouri Baptists," Drew Hill said. "These are days of uncertainty and strife."

"We are gathered here to share information and to discuss our concerns and then — under the leadership of God's Spirit — to do some planning to see how we can be about kingdom work in the days ahead."

Others on the meeting agenda were former Missouri Baptist Convention Executive Director Jim Hill (brother of Drew Hill); Randy Fullerton, pastor of Fee Fee Church, St. Louis; Bill Miller, pastor of First Church, Farmington; and H.K. Neely, vice president for denominational relations and dean of the Courts Redford School of Theology for Southwest Baptist University (SBU), Bolivar. Neely noted he was not attending the meeting as a representative of SBU.

Jim Hill — who neither confirmed nor denied that he would consider becoming executive director for the new convention — addressed reasons why he favors forming a new convention.

"The Baptist convention today is not the same one I have known all my life. The emphasis is on power and control; there is more interest in exclusion than inclusion."

"However, I do not desire to give up my heritage as a Baptist," Hill continued. "It is time to quit fighting with fellow Baptists and move forward with the kingdom work."

"Those no longer at home or welcomed in the MBC can form a new Baptist state convention and continue our heritage."

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

"What do you think?" is the question that came to me, both by phone and in person, several times and very quickly Friday morning.

At first I did not know what to think about the question but was soon informed that I should read the front page of The Clarion Ledger newspaper (January 18) and then tell what I think.

I read the article about a Baptist pastor and his co-pastor wife — how he had left to take another job and the church had extended a call to her to become the full-time pastor.

Before I started telling others, and especially before I would try to tell you what to think, I recognize that Baptists generally think for themselves and they do not need, nor easily appreciate, other folks telling them what they ought to think!

In fact, one of our glorious principles as Baptists is that we believe in the Priesthood of the Believer and the competency of the soul — meaning that if you get alone with God in his Word, he will guide you and give you understanding of his will and purpose.

Still, I was being asked, "What do you think?" So, after reading the extensive coverage given by the secular press on this issue, I felt that additional information and light ought to be shared; therefore, in the limited space that I have, here is what I think:

• I think that women serving our Lord Jesus in and through his church are a tremendous blessing. Who could begin to imagine what the church would be like and what would go undone if it were not for the care, work, energy, and interest of the wonderful women in our churches?

Throughout Mississippi Baptist life, women play a vital role in the Kingdom effort. In our local churches women are a definite strength and throughout our convention organization they serve in vital positions.

At the present time women serve on nearly every board of every institution and agency Mississippi Baptists have. On the Executive Committee of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, three ladies serve with distinction. Just last year, Bettye Coward became the first woman to serve as a President of any institution of higher learning in the Southern Baptist Convention.

When I begin to think about women in ministry and missions and making a difference for our Lord, I think about the Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) groups all across our state. I think about the WMU Convention that will soon be held at First Church, Natchez, where women will lead, sing, share, inspire, pray, and plan. I also think about those ladies all across our state who serve in so many vital positions and do such a marvelous job with children, youth, students, and music.



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

While Southern Baptists have passed a statement of understanding of Scripture that indicates that we do not believe that women should serve as senior pastors in churches, it appears that every other area of spiritual life is open to the effective participation by women.

There may be cases, though I am not aware of any, where a woman has been excluded or included simply because she is a woman. Rather, women have found their way into every area of life and leadership among us because they are capable and guided there by God.

• I think that what I think doesn't matter at all, unless what I think is what the Scripture teaches. We believe the Bible and the Bible speaks to issues we face. The Word of God is our final authority for faith and practice.

Does the Bible teach that women ought to be pastors, or that only men should serve that role? While I do understand that there is room for discussion and interpretation of Biblical truths, I do not believe that you can just pick and choose whatever you would like in order to do what you would like to do.

I recall a conversation I had with the great Baptist leader, preacher, and statesman, the late Robert Naylor. He served many years as president of Southwestern Seminary in Ft. Worth. It was only months before his death when I sat and had a conversation with this great-spirited old saint.

Naylor's book, "The Baptist Deacon," has been published, republished, and read by millions. I asked him if he was going to write an additional chapter for the book before it was republished.

He looked at me with an inquisitive eye, and asked, "What?" I said, "I thought you might be writing on women as deacons, and possibly add another chapter before you republish the book."

He smiled a big smile and said, "Oh, no." Then he told me of a press conference where he was asked, "Do you believe that women should serve as deacons?"

His reply was, "Well, if you would like to raise the level of intelligence of your deacon body, then probably it would be a good idea to have women deacons. For sure, if you would like to make your deacons look a lot better, it would be a good idea to have some women deacons. But if you want to do what the Bible teaches, you

won't have women serving as deacons."

Listen to the instructions given in Scripture for a pastor or overseer of the church:

1 Tim. 3:1-5: "Here is a trustworthy saying: If anyone sets his heart on being an overseer, he desires a noble task. Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?)"

It is also important to see how the Apostle Paul instructs women to be instructors:

Titus 2:3: "Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God."

Neither then, nor now, does the Word of God need to be maligned.

• I think that the autonomy of the local church is vitally important. The Mississippi Baptist Convention does not consist of an ecclesiastical hierarchy that dictates activities, programs, and policies to its churches.

We are a convention made up of churches that voluntarily decide to cooperate in order to do the great work of the Kingdom of God. Churches band together in order to carry out the mission of reaching Mississippi and the world for Jesus, to share in the healthy fellowship of believers, and to be bound together in a mutually accept-

ed understanding of the truth of God's Word.

Each of the 2,076 churches in the Mississippi Baptist Convention is autonomous. Nobody can tell you what to do or how to do it — not another church, not an individual believer, not a convention — no one, except the Lord.

Sometimes I hear us talk about our autonomy, our self-governing principle, as though no one, including the Lord, can tell us what to do. Well — the Lord can, does, and should — and we must find him and follow. We do, without question, believe the Bible and adhere to its teachings, and we do, under the Lordship of Jesus, have a mission to accomplish. We must stay with the task and get on with the work.

A few months ago, a new book came out by Chris Matthews — the fast-talking, opinionated, television commentator heard on the television show "Hard Ball." The title of his book is, "Now Let Me Tell You What I Really Think."

Well, what I really think is that in a world that is still caught in the smoke and haze of September 11, on a shaken globe, people are waiting to hear of the Good News that we have about a living Savior. We must not be divided or diverted by any issue that would keep us from sharing the Gospel with a hurting world.

People desperately need to hear of our powerful, saving Lord. They are hardly blessed by hearing of feuding Baptists!

LifeWay inks agreements for discounts

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — LifeWay Christian Stores has reached new agreements designed to help churches and associations achieve their ministry goals. The agreements with Michael Business Machines (MBM) Corporation and Toshiba American Business Solutions (TABS) will allow individual churches and associations to take advantage of large volume discounts when purchasing or leasing office equipment.

MBM manufactures folding machines, collators, cutters, booklet makers and other paper finishing equipment, while Toshiba produces high-quality copiers and fax machines, including highly efficient digital copiers.

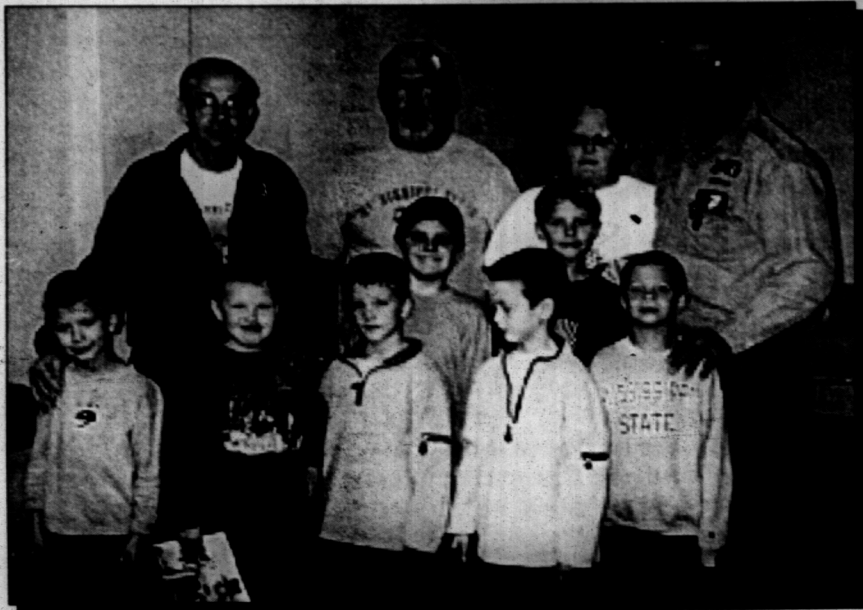
For more information on these products, to schedule a demonstration, purchase or lease, call LifeWay at (800) 464-2799 or email at lifeway-officeproducts@lifeway.com.

Measure twice, cut once



Leon Whittington (left) of Custer City, Okla., and Bob Martin of Okla., put up sheet rock in Chaparral Hotel at Glorieta Conference Center. Both men are part of the Oklahoma Campers on Mission who have come to time to work at the LifeWay conference center in New Mexico.

JUST FOR THE RECORD



RAs of Indian Springs Church, Jones Association

RAs of Indian Springs Church, Jones Association, presented \$130.50 to Mike West, pastor, for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. The RAs had set a goal of \$100. The RA leaders are Morris Welch, Bobby Bell, Issiah Miles, and Carroll Smith.

Children's choir of Indian Springs Church, Jones Association, presented \$82.37 to Linda Stringer, WMU director, for the Lottie Moon

Christmas offering. The presentation was made at the children's Christmas program. The choir is led by Rose West and Libby Welch. Mike West is pastor.

Parkway Church, Clinton, will host John Rosemond, nationally syndicated columnist and authority on parenting, on Feb. 9. He will lead an afternoon and evening workshop entitled The Well-

Behaved Child: Discipline That Really Works. Tickets are required and may be obtained by calling the church at (601) 924-9912.

Colonial Heights Church, Jackson, will sponsor a three-week Bible Study for Single Adults. The study will start at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 28. The topic of the study will be Loving Life while Living Single. For additional information, contact the church office at (601) 956-5000.



Rosemond

Gold City will be in concert at Zion Hill Church, Wesson, Feb. 7 at 7 p.m. For additional information, call the church office at (601) 643-5145.

First Church, Ovett, honored Tommy and Libby Mangum on Dec. 30 with a retirement and going-away celebration. They served the church 11 years to the day. Mangum has been pastoring for 38 years. The different Sunday School classes and

departments gave gifts of money and a pounding. The church gave the Mangums a check and a picture of a light-house, which has been the symbol of their ministry during their time at Ovett. Mangum is available for interim and supply and may be reached at (601) 584-8908. Pictured (from left) are sons Scott and Steven Mangum; Tommy and Libby Mangum; and daughter Selena Stephens.



The Mangums

Mississippians earn degrees

David Price of Jackson, received a master of divinity degree from Southern Seminary on Dec. 14, during the Louisville, Ky., school's 188th commencement.

Price, a graduate of Mississippi College, is currently working as a church planter and pastor in Worchester, Mass.

Corey L. Tutor of Pontotoc, received the master of divinity degree from Southeastern Seminary, Wake Forest, N. C., on Dec. 15.



Children's choir of Indian Springs Church, Jones Association

MS POSITIONS AVAILABLE

CHURCH AVERAGING 100 in Sunday School seeks full-time associate pastor/minister of music and youth. Please send resume to Calvary Baptist Church, 2878 Old Hwy. 27, Vicksburg, MS 39180; or fax to (601) 636-7574.

CHURCH AVERAGING 275 in Sunday School seeks full-time minister of music. Please send resume to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 535, Bruce, MS 38915; or fax (662) 983-2177.

MONTICELLO BAPTIST CHURCH is seeking a preschool/daycare director. Interested applicants must fill out an employment application which is available from the church office. Applicants must also submit a resume. Send resume to Monticello Baptist Church, P.O. Box 814, Monticello, MS 39654. For employment application, call (601) 587-2114.

BAYOU VIEW BAPTIST CHURCH, Gulfport, is seeking a part-time children's minister. A heart for children a must. Contact church office at (228) 863-2482 or www.bayouview.org.

ANTIOCH BAPTIST CHURCH, BRANDON, is seeking a minister of music. The church is located on Highway 43 South between Pelahatchie and Puckett. Please submit resume to: Antioch Baptist Church, 2350 Highway 43 South, Brandon, MS 39042.

MAIN STREET BAPTIST CHURCH, Goodman, Miss., is seeking a bivocational or full-time pastor. Please send resume to: Pastor Search Committee, Main Street Baptist Church, P.O. Box 206, Goodman, MS 39079-0206.

WEST ELLISVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH is seeking a full-time Minister of Music and Education. Responsibilities include: leading worship and all adult and youth choirs; overseeing directors and music programs for preschool and children's departments; and overseeing and implementing education programs for the church. Interested applicants please send a resume to West Ellisville Baptist Church, Attention: Melinda Bradshaw, Music Search Committee Chairman, 1108 Avenue B, Ellisville, MS 39437.

Register today for Southwestern's 50th annual Church Music Workshop

Feb. 11-15, 2002

Featuring: 6 hours of choral technics, 6 hours of choral music reading, and 3 concerts



Bruce Corley, professor of New Testament: "Ten Thousand Times Ten Thousand—Voices in Praise in the Bible Finale"



Gordon Borrer, professor of church music: "The Priestly Ministry of Church Musicians"



John Dickson, director of choral studies, chair of the conducting division, Texas Tech University: choral clinician

Caia Kent McCullar: children's choirs
Cynthia Dobrinski: handbell choirs
Joseph Martin: multi-publisher reading sessions
Allen Pote: multi-publisher reading sessions

Distinguished Service Awards luncheon to honor:
Luther Burney, Glen Boyd, and Hildegard Stanley

Registration: \$105, includes two luncheons and anthem packets.
For more information,
call 817-923-1921, ext. 3160 or e-mail scm@swbts.edu.



Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary
Touch the World...Impact Eternity.
www.swbts.edu



What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

January 24, 2002

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

Pray this day for...

January 25 - February 7, 2002

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 601-292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

"PRAYER IS ENTERING THE PRESENCE OF THE ALMIGHTY GOD - When you realize that you are entering the presence of God, it transforms your praying. It brings new life, joy, and power to your praying."

The Prayer Closet by Dr. Kevin Meador, Decatur, Miss.

For: (1) Baptist Men's Day (MM Emphasis); (2) Journeyman Jeff Gautney, "I have made it through my first week here in Montevideo, Uruguay, and I have truly felt welcomed and at home. The local missionaries have gone out of their way to make sure I have had everything I needed and really made me feel like a part of the family."

Pray for the training of Christian leaders in China. Pray for Amity Press which has printed over 28 million Bibles but China needs many more for its 1.2 billion population. Christianity is the fastest growing religion in China. Pray for the protection of the church since there is still widespread persecution of believers.

For: (1) Baptist Doctrine Preview, Main Street BC, Hattiesburg (D&FM); (2) The 2002 Winter Olympics will be held in Salt Lake City February 8-24. The Mormon church will maximize this opportunity to turn many to Mormonism. Ask God to block their efforts, and pray for true believers to share the Word with boldness.

Please pray for a change of spirit in the city of Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo. The police and the military are expecting and demanding something for themselves at each of the checkpoints. May this not hinder the movement of believers who are seeking to reach out in the city.

For: (1) Baptist Doctrine Preview, McLaurin Heights BC, Pearl (D&FM); (2) As winter advances in Afghanistan, intercede for the suffering people of that land needing shelter and food. Ask God to open doors for relief agencies. Pray that believers will have the courage to share Christ with their families and neighbors.

Pray for two developing projects to penetrate Serbian homes and communities in Southern Europe. One pairs Serbian children without fathers with children in the U.S. for encouragement and support through correspondence. The other uses greenhouses to provide support through development and as a bridge into communities with the gospel message.

Curtis Stackpol, church planter and pastor of FBC, Brigham City, Utah, an almost solid Mormon area asks prayer that God will send people surrendered to the mission of carrying the gospel of Jesus Christ to the people. Pray for prosperity to buy. Pray for his wife, Donna, a teacher and their son, as they travel 30 miles each way to school every day.

For: (1) Baptist Building Staff AT HOME DAYS, 6th-8th; (2) Pray for those interceded for as prayer-walkers moved through the frozen streets of Khabarovsk, Russia, in January. Let's unite our hearts with members of the local Baptist church there and pray that Christ will warm the hearts of Russians and they will be drawn to Him.

For: (1) Baptist Doctrine Preview, FBC, Grenada, 9 a.m.-noon (D&FM); (2) Church Business Administrators' Conference, FBC, Madison, 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. (CAPM); (3) Pray for those in China who are involved in cults to have freedom in Christ.

For: (1) Church Music Conference, FBC, McComb, noon, 7th - noon, 8th (CM); (2) Paul and Betty Roaten are MSC missionaries in Hope, Ark. Paul is the director of Hope Migrant Center that is located at a government rest stop. Pray for them as they minister to the needs of these migrants both physically and spiritually.

For: (1) Area Keyboard Festival, Crossgates BC, Brandon; Hernando BC, Hernando; FBC, Biloxi; Poplar Springs Drive BC, Meridian; 6:30-8:30 p.m. (CM); (2) Singles Regional Rally, Central Hills, Kosciusko, 6-9pm (D&FM); (3) State BSM Retreat, Camp Garaywa, Clinton, 6 p.m., 25 - 2 p.m. 26 (CLGM).

For: (1) Area Keyboard Festival, Alta Woods BC, Jackson; Emmanuel BC, Grenada; 9:30 a.m.- noon (CM); (2) Singles Regional Rally, Covington-Jefferson Davis Baptist Association, Collins, 2-5 p.m. (D&FM); (3) Women's Forum Network, Camp Garaywa (WMU).

Christian workers in Haiti write: "The need is great but the people in two towns where we work are blind to their needs. We know that the "god of this world" has blinded the minds of the unbelieving, so let's pray that God will open their minds and hearts to the saving love of Jesus."

2002 Senior Adult Retreats

Magnifying the Senior's Life

Gulfshore CONFERENCES

	I May 13-16 Cost: \$127	II May 20-22 Cost: \$87	III May 23-25 Cost: \$87
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GUEST SPEAKERS AND



PAID IN FULL

John McCall Clinton, Miss.



&
Sonny Adkins MBCB

Frank Pollard Jackson



Frank Gunn Biloxi

Registration	1:30 p.m. on the 13th	1:30 p.m. on the 20th	1:30 p.m. on the 23rd
Adjourn	1 p.m. on the 16th	11 a.m. on the 22nd	10 a.m. on the 25th

CONFERENCES OFFERED:

- Spiritual Warfare • Grandparenting • Coping with Change
- Habit of Joy (humor) • Agape Road • Crafts • Leadership
- Better than New • Ways of God

REGISTER AFTER FEBRUARY 1 AT GULFSHORE

For more information, contact Glenn Shows in the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department at 1-800-748-1651 or 292-3373

3-01 Miss Laura Wingo
Parents: Floyd and Sylvia

6-95 Miss Erin T. DeMars
Parents: Guy & Cindy

6-91 Miss Hanna E. Webb
Parents: Timothy & Janet

7-92 Mr. Nathanael C. Packard
Parents: Michael & Sabrina

13-95 Miss Millie S. Foster
Parents: Michael & Miranda

15-97 Miss Abigail R. Hewitt
Parents: Earl and Ramona

16-93 Mr. David A. Vaughn
Parents: John & Kathy

20-89 Mr. Matthew A. Crocker
Parents: George & Ginger

24-89 Miss Robyn L. Kyzar
Parents: John & Melinda

26-79 Deron K. Mellstrup
Parents: Dennis & Sherrie

27-88 Miss Allison L. Martin
Parents: Asbury & Hope

29-88 Mr. Jason R. Brown
Parents: John & Claudia

31-93 Miss Grace M. Holyfield
Parents: Michael & Patricia



**Take a moment to send
a card to encourage
the children of
our missionaries!**

Please take a moment to drop a birthday greeting and word of encouragement to our Missionary Kids! For security, cards will be forwarded. Please send all to:

Child's name and parent's name
International Mission Board
P.O. Box 6767
Richmond, VA 23230-8767

The following is a listing of contributions made to the Lord's work which were processed through the Business Office of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board from January 1, 2001, through December 31, 2001. An "*" denotes a gift from the association. If you have any questions about the amounts reported for your church, please contact the Business Office at 968-3800 or 1-800-748-1651.

COOP. PROGRAM	OTHER	TOTAL
ADAMS		
*ASSOCIATION	197.60	197.60
CALVARY	3,780.50	3,780.50
CLIFF TEMPLE	11,626.98	11,626.98
CRANFIELD	2,024.16	2,024.16
FBC NATCHEZ	103,996.67	103,996.67
HIGHLAND	25,548.25	25,548.25
IMMANUEL	15,022.43	15,022.43
MORCANTOWN	22,181.88	22,181.88
NEW HOPE	931.97	931.97
PARKWAY	76,954.02	76,954.02
SPRINGFIELD	4,085.60	4,085.60
STANTON	13,968.71	13,968.71
WASHINGTON	12,849.14	12,849.14
TOTAL	305,001.51	305,001.51
ALCORN		
*ASSOCIATION	3,393.40	3,393.40
ANTIOCH	3,051.44	3,051.44
BETHLEHEM	2,163.26	2,163.26
BRUSH CREEK	6,030.73	6,030.73
CALVARY	1,200.00	1,200.00
COUNTY LINE	2,522.28	2,522.28
DANVILLE	9,022.11	9,022.11
EAST CORINTH	1,691.15	1,691.15
FBC BIGGERSVILLE	132,507.43	132,507.43
FBC CORINTH	9,382.99	9,382.99
GLENDALE	5,194.56	5,194.56
HINKLE	3,992.28	3,992.28
HOLLY	1,601.12	1,601.12
JACINTO	1,395.10	1,395.10
KEMPS CHAPEL	1,806.84	1,806.84
KENDRICK	6,198.53	6,198.53
KOSLUTH FIRST	1,380.45	1,380.45
LIBERTY HILL	1,188.90	1,188.90
LOVE OAK	2,485.96	2,485.96
LONE JOY	1,000.00	1,000.00
NORTH CORINTH	68,050.26	68,050.26
OKLAHOMA	3,920.58	3,920.58
RIDGECREST	10,694.77	10,694.77
RIENZI	9,531.29	9,531.29
SHILOH	1,200.00	1,200.00
SOUTH CORINTH	75,579.68	75,579.68
TATE	3,764.50	3,764.50
TISHOMIN CHAPEL	2,046.70	2,046.70
TUSCUMBIA	4,826.01	4,826.01
UNION	762.99	762.99
UNITY	16,241.12	16,241.12
WEST CORINTH	53,759.69	53,759.69
WHEELER GROVE	443,998.08	443,998.08
TOTAL	297,675.83	297,675.83
ATLANTA		
*ASSOCIATION	1,191.50	1,191.50
BEAR CREEK	2,339.84	2,339.84
BEREA	1,439.53	1,439.53
BOWLIN	16.03	16.03
CARSON RIDGE	396.00	396.00
COUNTY LINE	2,914.00	2,914.00
DOTY SPRINGS	1,212.74	1,212.74
EBENEZER	1,584.00	1,584.00
EDGEFIELD	700.00	700.00
ELIM	10,114.00	10,114.00
FBC KOSCIUSKO	158,071.34	158,071.34
HARMONY	200.00	200.00
HURRICANE	701.66	701.66
IKUSALEM	2,511.62	2,511.62
MCADAMS	8,064.10	8,064.10
MCADAMS	11,010.33	11,010.33
NEW SALEM	1,350.00	1,350.00
PARKWAY	30,004.22	30,004.22
PEELER MEMORIAL	517.50	517.50
PILGRIMS REST	2,333.40	2,333.40
PLEASANT RIDGE	180.00	180.00
PROVIDENCE	22.60	22.60
SALLIS	6,000.00	6,000.00
SAND HILL	2,532.26	2,532.26
SECOND KOSCIUSKO	1,100.00	1,100.00
SPRINGDALE	4,492.44	4,492.44
UNITY	2,687.00	2,687.00
WILLIAMSVILLE	27,224.61	27,224.61
YACKANOOKANY	1,620.77	1,620.77
ZAMA	1,170.88	1,170.88
TOTAL	282,313.87	282,313.87
BENTON-TIPPAH		
*ASSOCIATION	2,860.00	2,860.00
ACADEMY	4,035.94	4,035.94
ASHLAND	17,022.50	17,022.50
BLUFF SPRINGS	2,701.00	2,701.00
CALVARY	505.00	505.00
CHALVATE	5,500.00	5,500.00
CHALVATE	1,308.00	1,308.00
COMMUNITY	2,569.00	2,569.00
CONCORD	1,800.00	1,800.00
DRY CREEK	758.42	758.42
DUMAS	34,067.97	34,067.97
FAITH	2,161.85	2,161.85
FALKNER	16,365.32	16,365.32
FBC HICKORY FLAT	8,612.01	8,612.01
FBC RIPLEY	106,604.23	106,604.23
FELLOWSHIP	11,402.50	11,402.50
FLAT ROY	1,511.50	1,511.50
HAMILTON	2,604.04	2,604.04
HARMONY	14,725.76	14,725.76
LEBANON	1,601.09	1,601.09
LOWREY MEMORIAL	5,671.75	5,671.75
MACE DONIA	528.00	528.00
MT HEBRON	2,242.00	2,242.00
MT MORIAH	3,363.81	3,363.81
NORTH RIPLEY	835.91	835.91
OAKLAND	5,915.77	5,915.77
PALMER	6,605.82	6,605.82
PEOPLES	1,015.47	1,015.47
PINE GROVE DUMAS	10,260.90	10,260.90
PINE G. HICK FLAT	6,138.00	6,138.00
PLEAS. HILL T'VILLE	1,372.71	1,372.71
PLEAS. HILL A'LAND	500.00	500.00
PROVIDENCE	5,248.28	5,248.28
SHADY GROVE	3,844.66	3,844.66
SPRINGDALE	30,802.38	30,802.38
TIPERSVILLE	1,903.39	1,903.39
TURNERS CHAPEL	2,814.00	2,814.00
UNITY	500.00	500.00
WALNUT	4,819.75	4,819.75
WEST RIPLEY	40,145.03	40,145.03
WHITTENTOWN	8,610.22	8,610.22
TOTAL	363,729.98	363,729.98
CALHOUN		
*ASSOCIATION	527.36	527.36
ANTIOCH	2,217.00	2,217.00
BANNER	7,256.11	7,256.11
BETHANY	12,610.00	12,610.00
BIG CREEK	18,704.15	18,704.15
BRADFORD CHAPEL	5,306.03	5,306.03
CALVARY	3,347.97	3,347.97
COLLIER HILL	3,027.31	3,027.31
CONCORD	5,071.07	5,071.07
DERMA	23,248.81	23,248.81
DRIVERS FLAT	2,750.00	2,750.00
DUNCAN HILL	1,875.00	1,875.00
ELARU	1,406.60	1,406.60
FBC CALHOUN CITY	54,500.00	54,500.00
FBC PITTSBORO	8,747.60	8,747.60
FBC VARDAMAN	31,645.97	31,645.97
LANTIRP	4,000.00	4,000.00
MACE DONIA	3,524.00	3,524.00
MIDWAY	3,525.57	3,525.57
MT COMFORT	4,866.89	4,866.89
MT MORIAH	10,640.66	10,640.66
MT TABOR	3,000.00	3,000.00
NEW HOPE	1,913.91	1,913.91
NEW LIBERTY	2,651.93	2,651.93
NEW PROVIDENCE	2,181.20	2,181.20
OAK GROVE	3,200.00	3,200.00
OLDTOWN	8,930.88	8,930.88
PARKER	2,394.69	2,394.69
PILGRIMS REST	356.56	356.56
PLEASANT GROVE	750.10	750.10
TOTAL	315,543.83	315,543.83
CARROLL		
*ASSOCIATION	8,400.00	8,400.00
BLACK HAWK	1,860.47	1,860.47
CALVARY	1,878.66	1,878.66
CARRINGTON	53,348.96	53,348.96
CENTERTOWN	391.51	391.51
COILA	200.00	200.00
HARMONY	1,100.00	1,100.00
HICKORY GROVE	770.40	770.40
HILVIEW	968.51	968.51
LIBERTY	7,968.88	7,968.88
MALMAISON	4,787.00	4,787.00
MCCARLEY	3,185.00	3,185.00
MT OLIVE	14,457.51	14,457.51
MT PISCAN	8,291.13	8,291.13
NEW BETHEL	2,644.87	2,644.87
NEW BETHLEHEM	17,034.67	17,034.67
PROVIDENCE	6,346.67	6,346.67
SHILOH	2,047.00	2,047.00
VAIDEN	24,839.78	24,839.78
VALLEY HILL	2,356.50	2,356.50
TOTAL	154,479.16	154,479.16
CHICKASAW		
*ASSOCIATION	600.00	600.00
AMITY	2,336.50	2,336.50
ARBOR GROVE	4,322.50	4,322.50
BETHEL	5,635.92	5,635.92
CORVATION	1,370.60	1,370.60
FBC HOUKA	17,106.67	17,106.67
FBC HOUSTON	140,963.73	140,963.73
FBC OKOLONA	35,111.00	35,111.00
FBC WOODLAND	3,610.13	3,610.13
MC CONDY	1,507.29	1,507.29
MT OLIVE	1,185.00	1,185.00
NEW PROSPECT	460.00	460.00
PARKWAY	16,188.17	16,188.17
PLEASANT GROVE	2,477.61	2,477.61
PLEASANT RIDGE	1,800.00	1,800.00
SCHOONER VALLEY	3,254.37	3,254.37
VAN VLEET	1,000.00	1,000.00
TOTAL	238,035.59	238,035.59
CHOCTAW		
ACKERMAN	31,125.75	31,125.75
BETHLEHEM	600.00	600.00
BLUFF SPRINGS	300.00	300.00
BLYTH CREEK	6,297.00	6,297.00
CHESTER	17,582.02	17,582.02
CONCORD	1,859.92	1,859.92
CONCORD	2,267.60	2,267.60
FELLOWSHIP	5,226.16	5,226.16
FENTRESS	935.00	935.00
FRENCH CAMP	5,462.46	5,462.46
HOPEWELL	3,144.00	3,144.00
MT MORIAH	4,188.60	4,188.60
MT PISCAN	2,285.13	2,285.13
MT HAVEN	2,041.73	2,041.73
NEW ZION	3,053.75	3,053.75
PROVIDENCE	500.00	500.00
VICTORY	4,726.33	4,726.33
WEIR	11,424.04	11,424.04
TOTAL	102,039.69	102,039.69
CLARKE		
ANTIOCH	993.69	993.69
BUCAITUNNA	2,503.36	2,503.36
CALVARY	2,835.50	2,835.50
CENTER RIDGE	300.00	300.00
DE SOTO	6,462.00	6,462.00
E. PLEASANT GROVE	300.00	300.00
ELIM	2,857.25	2,857.25
ENTERPRISE	36,798.00	36,798.00
FBC OLITMAN	70,175.22	70,175.22
FBC STONEWALL	13,890.01	13,890.01
HARMONY	7,135.34	7,135.34
HEBRON RIDGE	1,291.72	1,291.72
HEPHZIBAH	2,639.88	2,639.88
KNIGHTS VALLEY	824.00	824.00
MCINTOSH	1,717.52	1,717.52
MT ZION	2,283.85	2,283.85
NORTH RYD CHAPEL	1,301.12	1,301.12
OAK GROVE	2,140.02	2,140.02
PACHUTA	3,663.34	3,663.34
PHALTI	300.58	300.58
PINE GROVE	9,246.70	9,246.70
PINE HILL	2,994.50	2,994.50
PLEASANT GROVE	1,728.41	1,728.41
PLEASANT HILL	18,787.34	18,787.34
RIVERSIDE	55.70	55.70
ROLLING CREEK	4,095.98	4,095.98
SAND BUTTE	11,045.97	11,045.97
SOLJENLOVIE	4,440.31	4,440.31
UNION	19,797.15	19,797.15
TOTAL	233,690.04	233,690.04
CORIAN		
*ASSOCIATION	6,253.10	6,253.10
ANTIOCH	3,833.66	3,833.66
BETHEL	6,285.00	6,285.00
COUNTY LINE	1,200.00	1,200.00
DAMASCUS	37.04	37.04
FBC CRYSTAL SP	100,980.85	100,980.85
FBC HAZLEHURST	27,072.88	27,072.88
GALLIE	300.00	300.00
GALLMAN	5,700.32	5,700.32
GATESVILLE	1,600.12	1,600.12
GEORGETOWN	6,770.37	6,770.37
HARMONY	2,500.00	2,500.00
HIGHLAND	5,251.16	5,251.16
HOPEWELL	2,861.61	2,861.61
NEW PROVIDENCE	3,384.77	3,384.77
NEW ZION	14,996.88	14,996.88
PEARL VALLEY	4,515.93	4,515.93
PEOPLES REST	14,366.00	14,366.00
PINE BLUFF	900.00	900.00
POPLAR SPRINGS	1,630.00	1,630.00
ROCKY HILL	2,502.46	2,502.46
SARDIS	1,749.13	1,749.13
SHADY GROVE	6,931.11	6,931.11
STRONG HILL	1,118.00	1,118.00
STRONG HILL	2,842.57	2,842.57
STRONG HILL	16,917.00	16,917.00
SYLVANIA	7,800.00	7,800.00
WESSON	15,777.83	15,777.83
WESTSIDE	9,943.35	9,943.35
ZION HILL	9,943.35	9,943.35
TOTAL	263,968.64	263,968.64
COV-JEFF DAVIS		
*ASSOCIATION	9,367.00	9,367.00
ANTIOCH	2,006.00	2,006.00
BETHANY	13,822.14	13,822.14
CALHOUN	4,182.66	4,182.66
CARSON	3,230.76	3,230.76
COLD SPRINGS	5,494.32	5,494.32
DUBLIN	1,399.81	1,399.81
EBENEZER	2,840.47	2,840.47
FBC COLLINS	46,992.34	46,992.34
FBC MT OLIVE	11,157.00	11,157.00
FBC SANFORD	3,038.00	3,038.00
HATHORN	2,627.24	2,627.24
HICKORY RIVER	2,045.00	2,045.00
ONE STAR	2,915.75	2,915.75
MT HOBBS	5,454.98	5,454.98
NEW HOPE	4,421.71	4,421.71
OAK GROVE	2,920.00	2,920.00
OLD HEBRON	9,545.54	9,545.54
ORA	5,508.82	5,508.82
PRENTISS	51,038.12	51,038.12
ROCK HILL	10,112.36	10,11

	COOP PROGRAM	OTHER	TOTAL		COOP PROGRAM	OTHER	TOTAL		COOP PROGRAM	OTHER	TOTAL		COOP PROGRAM	OTHER	TOTAL
LAFAYETTE				SOUTH 28TH AVE	4,231.44	1,480.27	5,711.71	FBC FLORA	35,499.43	12,139.93	47,639.36	COUNTY LINE	2,064.20	12,305.35	14,369.55
ANCHOR	37,415.00	20,210.49	57,625.49	SUNRISE	13,556.00	8,485.00	22,041.00	FBC JACKSON	744,000.39	424,673.50	1,168,673.89	EAST PHILADELPHIA	29,329.42	23,383.85	52,713.27
CALVARY	5,066.71	3,401.09	8,467.80	TEMPLE H'BURG	203,978.76	196,022.78	400,001.54	FBC MADISON	200,123.43	115,805.41	315,928.84	FBC PHILADELPHIA	48,999.96	50,579.65	99,579.61
CLEAR CREEK	21,324.26	16,084.09	37,408.35	TEMPLE PETAL	2,874.93	76.00	2,950.93	FBC RAYMOND	50,000.04	30,029.11	80,029.15	FELLOWSHIP	132.50	201.01	333.51
COLL. HILL HEIGHTS	6,766.08	3,564.60	10,330.68	THIRTY EIGHTH AVE	27,334.31	21,361.90	48,696.21	FBC RIDGELAND	53,843.17	5,824.82	59,667.99	GOOD HOPE	4,851.05	7,324.05	12,175.10
DAVY	2,095.00	2,095.00	4,190.00	TRINITY	6,645.29	5,141.11	11,786.40	FBC TERRY	43,551.83	25,914.04	69,465.87	GRACE	16,401.63	18,048.08	34,449.71
DEMARK	553.16	24.64	577.80	UNIVERSITY	1,080.00	24,191.61	25,271.61	FBC WEST HILL	7,406.92	2,392.91	9,799.83	HERBERT	450.00	1,400.00	1,850.00
FAITH	2,812.83	1,735.00	4,547.83	WEST POINT MSN	500.00	0.00	500.00	FRANKLIN	8,372.48	3,216.26	11,588.74	HIGH HILL	2,474.09	6,772.87	9,246.96
FBC ABBEVILLE	31,411.93	17,863.08	49,275.01	TOTAL	1,012,576.34	645,209.65	1,657,785.99	GOOD HOPE	668.00	376.00	1,044.00	HOPE	1,050.03	5,373.97	6,424.00
FBC OXFORD	116,935.73	60,231.34	177,167.07					GREEN PASTURES	300.00	0.00	300.00	LAUREL HILL	3,301.96	910.00	4,211.96
HARMONTOWN	32,511.41	14,748.82	47,260.23	LEE				GRIFITH MEM.	31,542.28	18,941.12	50,483.40	LINWOOD	8,737.17	2,765.05	11,502.22
NEW ELBETH	3,301.86	4,237.72	7,539.58	AUBURN	28,100.42	9,818.00	37,918.42	HIGHLAND	4,633.73	2,404.96	7,038.69	LONGVIEW	1,248.02	2,730.88	3,978.90
NEW HOPE	1,079.22	1,079.22	2,158.44	BARNES CROSSING	3,274.46	6,727.17	10,001.63	HIGHLAND COLONY	100.00	8,303.59	8,403.59	MT CARMEL	720.00	1,245.00	1,965.00
NEW PROSPECT	14,215.35	14,215.35	28,430.70	BELDEN	53,000.16	20,691.57	73,691.73	HIGHPOINT	3,326.49	542.00	3,868.49	MT NELSON	542.00	655.00	1,197.00
NORTH OXFORD	151,926.85	71,147.89	223,074.74	BETHANY	100.00	800.00	900.00	HILLCREST	18,998.96	16,279.88	35,278.84	NESHOBA	14,492.84	12,816.13	27,308.97
OLD UNION	300.00	0.00	300.00	BIRMINGHAM	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00	HORIZON COMM.	200.00	0.00	200.00	NEW BETHEL	6,444.71	4,586.98	11,031.69
PARIS	2,289.29	5,796.45	8,085.74	BISSELL	4,523.19	1,425.00	5,948.19	LAKESHORE	14,896.81	6,661.21	21,558.02	NEW BLACK JACK	6,511.62	851.62	7,363.24
PHILADELPHIA	1,244.00	10,543.00	11,787.00	BREWER	23,344.39	8,116.03	31,460.42	LONE PINE	1,804.52	4,727.25	6,531.77	NEW PLASMANTDALE	1,205.00	2,208.00	3,413.00
SHILOH	9,645.26	4,884.70	14,529.96	CALVARY	357,209.12	133,371.74	490,580.86	LULA	755.00	2,300.00	3,055.00	NORTH CALVARY	6,311.81	5,763.19	12,075.00
TAYLOR	3,484.09	1,921.23	5,405.32	CAMP CREEK	19,701.57	6,894.11	26,595.68	MCDOWELL ROAD	300.00	36,388.05	36,688.05	OAK GROVE	97.00	748.00	845.00
TEMPLE HEIGHTS	885.11	36.06	921.17	CHESTERVILLE	6,896.14	10,888.11	17,784.24	MIDWAY	18,997.18	6,712.00	25,709.18	OLD PEARL VALLEY	6,520.35	10,520.35	17,040.70
TRINITY	3,000.00	60.00	3,060.00	DOTY CHAPEL	6,007.48	5,479.56	11,487.04	MORRISON HTS	287,547.77	117,056.29	404,604.06	PINE GROVE	10,079.00	18,037.00	28,116.00
TULA	4,856.73	3,241.15	8,097.88	EAST HEIGHTS	36,640.42	27,552.87	64,193.29	NEW HAVEN	857.22	426.59	1,283.81	SALEM	2,333.93	3,255.29	5,589.22
UNION WEST	6,418.37	2,643.43	9,061.80	EAST HILLS	6,645.29	5,141.11	11,786.40	NORTHMINSTER	1,881.00	66,832.00	68,713.00	SAND HILL	915.75	915.75	1,831.50
YELLOW LEAF	18,949.95	21,498.75	40,448.70	EUCLATUBBA	6,074.67	354.98	6,429.65	NORTHSHIRE	2,495.20	12,942.47	15,437.67	SARDIS	1,561.42	2,906.42	4,467.84
TOTAL	475,787.29	271,899.31	747,686.60	FBC BALDWIN	97,067.79	17,813.35	114,881.14	OAK FOREST	41,339.60	24,105.33	65,444.93	SPRING CREEK	17,438.17	13,563.15	31,001.32
				FBC GUNTOWN	6,391.63	1,747.35	8,139.98	OKAWAY	37.00	430.00	467.00	TRINITY	3,501.09	6,898.08	10,399.17
LAMAR				FBC NETTLETON	20,170.31	4,855.75	25,026.06	OLD RICE ROAD	5,612.47	993.83	6,606.30	WEST PHILADELPHIA	0.00	1,290.00	1,290.00
AUTUMN RIDGE	600.00	1,423.00	2,023.00	HARVARD BLVD	21,018.04	13,265.30	34,283.34	PARKHILL	5,543.96	7,392.30	12,936.26	TOTAL	234,597.29	267,838.53	502,435.82
BAITERSVILLE	3,939.98	1,130.54	5,070.52	FBC SALTILO	67,917.50	18,544.24	86,461.74	PARKVIEW	91,974.96	89,023.27	180,998.23				
BELLEVIEW	15,091.47	3,595.00	18,686.47	FBC SHANNON	15,898.08	4,101.00	19,999.08	POCAHONTAS	11,984.74	1,166.00	13,150.74	NEW CHOCTAW			
CALVARY	11,614.02	14,231.19	25,845.21	FBC TUPELO	147,421.57	86,888.72	234,310.29	RAYMOND ROAD	24,189.99	27,973.93	52,163.92	ASSOCIATION	50.00	0.00	50.00
COAL TOWN	2,669.63	2,669.63	5,339.26	GRACE MEMORIAL	900.00	2,017.00	2,917.00	ROCKCREST	187,941.09	215,915.02	403,856.11	BOGUE CHITTO	504.41	521.54	1,025.95
CORINTH	5,936.00	7,924.54	13,860.54	KOINONIA	262,423.00	540.56	262,963.56	SALEM	10,396.00	7,694.71	18,090.71	CANAN	193.61	1,047.78	1,241.39
FBC CUMBERTON	10,863.10	13,152.12	24,015.22	LIMESTONE	2,240.00	5,056.00	7,296.00	SIMMONS MEM.	1,117.14	1,198.85	2,315.99	CORINTH	125.00	655.00	780.00
FBC CUMBERTON	22,796.87	22,796.87	45,593.74	MACEDONIA	7,792.14	5,480.00	13,272.14	SOUTHERN HILLS	1,980.00	1,620.00	3,600.00	HOPE INDIAN	150.00	250.00	400.00
FBC CURVIE	101,782.86	27,595.41	129,378.27	MONUMENT DRIVE	4,348.13	9,190.15	13,538.28	TERRY ROAD	1,120.14	12,741.34	13,861.48	HOPEWELL	250.00	480.00	730.00
FBC SUMRALL	57,556.40	39,191.13	96,747.53	MT SINAI	990.45	400.00	1,390.45	TRACE RIDGE	30,790.63	17,242.35	48,032.98	MACEDONIA	125.00	3,433.14	3,558.14
GOOD HOPE	5,554.51	2,858.27	8,412.78	MT VERNON	4,234.32	7,404.65	11,638.97	TWIN LAKES	27,727.73	12,852.72	40,580.45	PEARL RIVER COMM'TY	400.00	1,780.00	2,180.00
GREENVILLE	2,668.32	561.42	3,229.74	NEW HOPE	13,966.42	2,988.32	16,954.74	UTICA	25,737.73	12,852.72	38,590.45	NEWTON			
HICKORY GROVE	40,602.33	17,751.38	58,353.71	OPEN DOOR	2,111.25	0.00	2,111.25	WESTVIEW	21,747.69	32,493.27	54,240.96	BEAT LINE	1,326.95	1,567.74	2,894.69
IMMANUEL	2,650.00	1,589.56	4,239.56	PALESTINE	600.00	600.00	1,200.00	WOODLAND HILLS	52,096.00	12,162.25	64,258.25	BETHEL	1,515.00	3,755.00	5,270.00
OKAHOLA	1,172.38	1,172.38	2,344.76	PALMETTO	5,811.63	440.00	6,251.63	WOODVILLE HTS	43,213.63	15,332.52	58,546.15	BEULAH	10,950.00	15,666.26	26,616.26
ORAL	1,627.67	2,964.00	4,591.67	PARKWAY	32,128.24	15,758.74	47,886.98	WYNDALE	84,035.81	5,562.25	89,598.06	CALVARY	11,556.28	8,424.01	19,980.29
RICHBURG	2,293.65	10,761.99	13,055.64	PLEASANT GROVE	99.25	1,140.98	1,240.23	TOTAL	3,597,693.16	2,009,670.25	5,607,363.41	CHUNKY	24,246.37	2,092.41	26,338.78
TRINITY	303,392.92	159,612.94	463,005.86	PRICEVILLE	10,664.30	6,630.39	17,294.69					CORNE VENABLE	69,843.30	28,904.55	98,747.85
				RICHMOND	7,051.27	3,799.96	10,851.23					CONHATTA	7,359.54	5,012.34	12,371.88
LAURELDALE				SHERMAN	13,094.70	12,397.85	25,492.55					CROSS ROADS	878.45	878.45	1,756.90
ARKADELPHIA	11,956.56	6,957.69	18,914.25	UNION CHAPEL	3,181.67	11,140.00	14,321.67					DUFFEE	3,052.95	0.00	3,052.95
ARROWOOD	1,960.00	1,400.00	3,360.00	WILKINSON ST	96,100.00	13,909.89	110,009.89					EMMANUEL	4,261.33	1,473.67	5,735.00
BETHANY	16,805.53	6,816.27	23,621.80	TOTAL	1,454,761.47	557,458.81	2,012,220.28					FBC NEWTON	101,864.01	46,329.82	148,193.83
BRIARWOOD	7,049.79	1,788.23	8,838.02									GOOD HOPE	1,716.00	705.00	2,421.00
CALVARY	7,500.00	14,593.66	22,093.66	LEFLORE								HAZEL	11,490.73	3,900.00	15,390.73
CARMEL	1,207.55	761.57	1,969.12	ASSOCIATION	0.00	407.00	407.00					HICKORY	56,585.80	22,823.43	79,409.23
CAUSEVILLE	20,921.02	9,356.79	30,277.81	CHRIST	16,464.00	7,120.02	23,584.02					HOPEWELL	8,611.27	4,965.83	13,577.10
CENTER GROVE	24,896.81	1,575.68	26,472.49	FBC GREENWOOD	46,968.98	35,427.06	82,396.04					LAWRENCE	5,600.89	1,105.46	6,706.35
CENTRAL	24,896.81	20,426.28	45,323.09	FBC ITTA BENA	16,871.75	9,472.66	26,344.41					MIDWAY	5,970.00	3,436.00	9,406.00
EIGHTH AVENUE	5,598.13	6,551.00	12,149.13	FBC MINTER CITY	1,778.00	450.00	2,228.00					MT NEBO	3,549.80	1,343.73	4,893.53
FBC COLLINSVILLE	90,567.07	26,507.01	117,074.08	IMMANUEL	15,511.51	8,997.16	24,508.67					MT VERNON	12,363.86	8,740.70	21,104.56
FBC LAURELDALE	15,122.18	4,995.37	20,117.55	MERCAN CITY	61.08	1,390.81	1,451.89					NEW IRELAND	2,950.72	1,919.60	4,870.32
FBC MARION	19,008.45	16,580.74	35,589.19	MT VERNON	83,322.93	49,787.86	133,110.79					POPLAR SPRINGS	1,636.06	6,519.51	8,155.57
FBC MERIDIAN	18,956.40	19,784.72	38,741.12	N GREENWOOD	1,442.73	130.92	1,573.65					ROCK BRANCH	4,218.00	4,077.00	8,295.00
FELLOWSHIP	18,644.24	9,841.45	28,485.69	PHILLIPSTON	3,322.93	130.92	3,453.85					SULPHUR SPRINGS	11,773.20	10,800.51	22,573.71
FIFTEENTH AVENUE	75,898.69	45,445.35	121,344.04	RIVERSIDE	0.00	7,750.00	7,750.00					TOTAL	419,108.81	253,879.86	672,988.67
GOODWATER	2,556.10	1,539.00	4,095.10	SCHLATER	1,800.00	1,600.00	3,400.00								
HEBRON	26,394.04	24,631.08	51,025.12	SEARSON	0.00	0.00	0.00								
HICKORY GROVE	149,137.40	56,323.99	205,461.39	TOTAL	195,606.77	135,661.45	331,268.22								
HIGHLAND	9,225.27	8,608.24	17,												

	COOP PROGRAM	OTHER	TOTAL
SOUTHCREST	1,500.28	300.06	1,800.34
STRAYHORN	11,551.64	2,838.16	14,389.80
TRINITY-HERNANDO	3,029.49	221.35	3,250.84
TRINITY-SHAVEN	170,022.96	95,570.01	265,592.97
TWIN LAKES	4,808.40	2,514.95	7,323.35
TYRO	1,910.00	445.00	2,355.00
WILLOWOOD	2,688.00	0.00	2,688.00
WYATTE	5,072.06	9,509.59	14,581.65
TOTAL	1,225,022.09	584,503.30	1,809,525.39

NOXUBEE			
BROOKSVILLE	10,818.42	15,023.27	25,841.69
CALVARY MACON	1,200.00	2,000.00	3,200.00
CONCORD	1,000.00	2,000.00	3,000.00
ELON	3,486.21	2,565.00	6,051.21
FBC MACON	24,082.69	16,557.73	40,640.42
MASHULAVILLE	1,665.10	2,193.75	3,858.85
RUHAMMA	0.00	300.00	300.00
SHILOH LAK	3,000.00	6,027.00	9,027.00
VERNON	1,043.52	1,143.52	2,187.04
TOTAL	46,295.94	45,106.75	91,402.69

PANOLA			
CALVARY	36,550.81	13,619.69	50,170.50
COMO	3,998.75	3,018.61	7,017.36
COURTLAND	5,199.00	2,000.00	7,199.00
CRESHAW	5,213.00	3,863.00	9,076.00
ENID LAKE	2,187.07	405.00	2,592.07
ENON	4,405.00	956.50	5,361.50
BATESVILLE	142,770.16	33,354.51	176,124.67
FBC SARDIS	37,499.81	32,884.50	70,384.31
FIRST FAITH	1,530.69	884.50	2,415.19
GOOD HOPE	5,715.18	1,181.00	6,896.18
HEBRON	5,431.23	1,199.70	6,630.93
IMMANUEL	1,155.11	1,478.18	2,633.29
LIBERTY HILL	9,063.00	2,695.20	11,758.20
LOCKE STATION	6,991.95	2,826.45	9,818.40
MCIVOR	296.30	150.00	446.30
NORTH BATESVILLE	10,218.05	5,200.00	15,418.05
PEACH CREEK	4,246.86	8,316.00	12,562.86
PHARSALIA	602.50	691.00	1,293.50
PILGRIMS REST	4,576.77	2,990.00	7,566.77
POPE	12,017.00	3,819.00	15,836.00
ROSE HILL	10,563.38	3,416.90	13,980.28
SARDIS LAKE	4,272.00	4,892.00	9,164.00
SHADY GROVE	2,659.65	968.00	3,627.65
TOWAWA	4,634.17	3,581.33	8,215.50
UNION	324,021.92	140,798.43	464,820.35

PEARL RIVER			
ASSOCIATION	0.00	260.00	260.00
BETHLEHEM	14,017.26	8,352.61	22,369.87
CORINTH	15,682.39	9,055.94	24,738.33
CRANE CREEK	12,114.90	6,348.13	18,463.03
DEBY	3,657.00	4,428.64	8,085.64
EMMANUEL	1,200.00	250.00	1,450.00
FAITH MEMORIAL	1,309.78	2,596.27	3,906.05
FBC CARRIERS	3,100.56	1,494.04	4,594.60
FBC NICHOLSON	9,974.00	3,014.36	12,988.36
FBC OZONA	2,539.53	2,609.65	5,149.18
FBC PICAYUNE	165,328.90	108,059.59	273,388.49
FBC PORTLANDVILLE	48,911.77	43,093.36	92,005.13
FLAT TOP UNITY	1,069.97	2,035.28	3,105.25
FORDS CREEK	5,182.00	3,018.85	8,200.85
GOOD YEAR	16,309.10	2,726.24	19,035.34
GRACE MEMORIAL	1,007.72	0.00	1,007.72
GUM POND	2,550.45	2,492.50	5,042.95
HARMONY	4,279.82	2,625.00	6,904.82
HILL CREST	1,760.51	4,091.04	5,851.55
UNION GROVE	14,082.61	12,991.36	27,073.97
NEW HENLEYFIELD	10,727.68	10,727.68	21,455.36
NEW PALESTINE	17,481.88	12,093.11	29,574.99
OAK HILL	2,283.60	6,634.82	8,918.42
OLIVE	7,382.52	6,205.34	13,587.86
PARKVIEW	5,506.65	2,724.30	8,230.95
PRIME GROVE	29,574.80	17,628.50	47,203.30
ROLLING HILLS	6,477.80	8,238.47	14,716.27
ROSELAND PARK	57,080.00	25,701.00	82,781.00
SPRINGHILL	5,689.52	5,122.75	10,812.27
STEEP HOLLOW	23,693.55	26,006.97	49,700.52
UNION	43,291.52	29,966.37	73,257.89
UNION	11,053.52	10,424.38	21,477.90
WEST POPLARVILLE	595.50	1,195.50	1,791.00
WHITE SAND	1,913.75	4,880.93	6,794.68
TOTAL	535,130.40	382,107.05	917,237.45

PERRY			
ARLINGTON	3,643.00	1,310.00	4,953.00
BREWSTER	4,441.00	2,472.00	6,913.00
BUCK CREEK	2,194.57	585.50	2,780.07
CALVARY	1,999.47	0.00	1,999.47
EASTSIDE	800.00	576.00	1,376.00
FBC NEW ALBANY	12,550.50	3,641.54	16,192.04
FBC RICHMOND	60,664.00	27,701.93	88,365.93
FBC RUSSELLTOWN	15,272.76	6,377.10	21,649.86
GOOD HOPE	2,003.50	5,554.80	7,558.30
INDIAN SPRINGS	8,141.10	13,569.36	21,710.46
LANICE	2,074.16	1,284.00	3,358.16
LOOP ROAD	2,188.81	1,302.39	3,491.20
MEMORIAL	2,352.40	0.00	2,352.40
PROSPECT	0.00	500.00	500.00
SEMINARY	1,699.36	3,798.73	5,498.09
THOMPSON HILL	1,875.80	3,228.09	5,103.89
UNION	1,383.32	1,525.35	2,908.67
TOTAL	129,811.85	77,716.84	207,528.69

PIKE			
ASSOCIATION	0.00	207.00	207.00
BALA CHITTO	3,728.85	2,410.00	6,138.85
BUFF SPRINGS	4,493.16	2,886.63	7,379.79
BOGUE CHITTO	9,979.11	2,052.00	12,031.11
CALVARY	13,194.89	2,468.92	15,663.81
CENTRAL	46,290.82	23,888.87	70,179.69
EAST MCCOMB	31,160.20	6,779.37	37,939.57
EAST UNION	4,401.85	1,703.25	6,105.10
FBC MAGNOLIA	54,848.19	21,179.20	76,027.39
FBC MCCOMB	124,712.43	58,827.27	183,539.70
FBC SUMMIT	109,741.08	44,969.98	154,711.06
FELLOWSHIP	3,430.45	1,007.00	4,437.45
FERNSWOOD	3,000.00	4,838.00	7,838.00
FRIENDSHIP	17,398.62	9,919.43	27,318.05
HOLMESVILLE	4,117.20	1,298.00	5,415.20
IMMANUEL	6,000.00	1,150.00	7,150.00
JOHNSTON STATION	5,365.00	3,467.87	8,832.87
MT ZION	2,667.29	3,076.13	5,743.42
NEW HOPE	16,910.35	9,222.60	26,132.95
NEW MCCOMB	873.00	1,176.00	2,049.00
OSKYA	19,421.00	3,821.00	23,242.00
PROGRESS	4,448.40	2,684.00	7,132.40
SILVER CREEK	14,385.58	3,708.62	18,094.20
SILVER SPRINGS	11,513.02	3,070.00	14,583.02
SOUTH MCCOMB	16,668.87	8,188.25	24,857.12
TAMPAHAWK	12,744.40	1,744.00	14,488.40
TERRY'S CREEK	32,897.60	11,018.12	43,915.72
UNITY	3,213.27	2,670.21	5,883.48
WEST MCCOMB	22,933.31	13,159.97	36,093.30
TOTAL	597,861.90	257,952.14	855,814.04

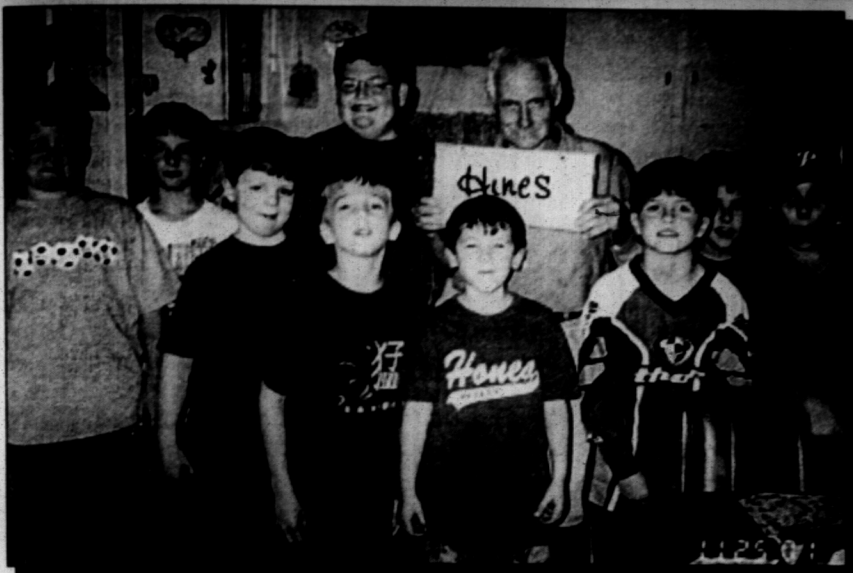
PONTOTOC			
ALCOA	13,660.07	2,564.59	16,224.66
BELLEVUE	2,787.91	2,217.36	5,005.27
BUCHANAN	535.00	500.00	1,035.00
CAIRO	3,717.24	2,048.07	5,765.31
CAREY SPRINGS	1,848.00	1,848.00	3,696.00
CENTER HILL	4,493.36	4,493.36	8,986.72
CHEERY CREEK	18,090.19	9,423.43	27,513.62
CHESTERVILLE CAL'RY	3,095.00	1,435.00	4,530.00
COOKE MEMORIAL	1,000.00	6,995.00	7,995.00
COUNTY LINE	15,390.33	8,500.00	23,890.33
ECRL	38,555.39	20,371.08	58,926.47
ENIDVILLE	1,296.04	1,000.00	2,296.04
FBC PONTOTOC	97,156.40	49,190.00	146,346.40
FBC TROY	6,818.54	624.23	7,442.77
FRIENDSHIP	23,898.14	15,014.42	38,912.56
FURRS	11,375.11	12,861.07	24,236.18
GREENHORN	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
GREEN VALLEY	6,625.56	4,732.50	11,358.06
HARMONY	8,917.53	4,420.00	13,337.53
HEBRON	1,677.00	400.00	2,077.00
HORTON MEMORIAL	0.00	282.00	282.00
IMMANUEL	3,329.24	2,870.66	6,199.90
LIBERTY	10,191.31	4,103.70	14,295.01
LOCKSTON HILL	2,605.00	6,815.00	9,420.00
LONGVIEW	20,530.00	4,103.63	24,633.63
MACDONIA	0.00	59.00	59.00
MIDWAY	4,449.45	4,429.72	8,879.17
NEW FAITH	2,955.95	4,055.95	7,011.90
NEW HOPE	1,000.00	1,354.55	2,354.55
OAKDALE	5,900.12	5,400.12	11,300.24
OAK HILL	8,687.86	5,985.84	14,673.70
PINE GROVE	1,299.30	0.00	1,299.30
RANDOLPH	11,442.75	9,784.21	21,226.96
SELAK	0.00	3,826.00	3,826.00
SHADY GROVE	3,122.00	4,387.11	7,509.11
SPRINGVILLE	7,860.80	0.00	7,860.80
THAXTON	6,408.47	6,929.33	13,337.80
TOKOSHA	530.51	371.55	902.06
TROY	3,314.66	3,675.75	6,990.41
TROV	5,929.87	3,379.29	9,309.16
VALLEY GROVE	4,617.27	3,801.24	8,418.51
WEST HEIGHTS	165,142.80	47,085.84	212,228.64

	COOP PROGRAM	OTHER	TOTAL
WOODLAND	2,155.99	7,702.92	9,858.91
ZION	8,557.00	2,881.52	11,438.52
TOTAL	535,267.02	287,118.95	822,385.97

PRENTISS			
ASSOCIATION	0.00	1,600.00	1,600.00
CALVARY	6,290.55	2,543.00	8,833.55
CASEY CHAPEL	3,321.28	4,628.06	7,949.34
CASEY CREEK	1,866.68	933.14	2,800.02
CRESTWOOD	3,841.58	3,313.50	7,155.08
EAST BOONEVILLE	64,927.18	26,985.00	91,912.18
EAST MARIETTA	3,720.41	238.00	3,958.41
EAST PLEASANT RIDGE	2,146.40	2,891.58	5,037.98
EAST PRENTISS	5,089.83	4,758.05	9,847.88
FAIRVIEW	3,002.90	2,001.96	5,004.86
FBC BOONEVILLE	57,969.13	55,426.14	113,395.27
FBC JUMPERTOWN	1,081.63	485.00	1,566.63
FOREST HILL	1,404.00	100.00	1,504.00
GASTON	27,128.84	35,087.45	62,216.29
HILL'S CHAPEL	633.02	316.47	949.49
INGRAM	5,643.69	3,643.69	9,287.38
MT OLIVE	18,906.61	22,564.03	41,470.64
NEW BURTON	1,444.00	385.00	1,829.00
OAK HILL	4,991.16	10,402.55	15,393.71
OSBORNE CREEK	2,672.58	3,672.57	6,345.15
PINEY GROVE	733.16	1,617.72	2,350.88
PLEASANT GROVE	802.04	1,591.55	2,393.59
THRASHER	4,377.18	9,013.20	13,390.38
TRINITY	197.00	277.00	474.00
TUSCUMBIA	21,002.00	10,060.00	31,062.00
WHEELER	41,997.73	5,655.69	47,653.42
TOTAL	227,906.55	210,190.25	438,096.80

RANKIN			
ASSOCIATION	.00	200.00	200.00
ANDREW CHAPEL	857.63	3,520.26	4,377.89
ANTIOCH-BRANDON	23,074.52	10,926.99	34,001.51
ANTIOCH-FLORENCE	5,668.05	4,020.79	9,688.84
BARFOOT SPRINGS	1,910.97	1,276.97	3,187.94
BETHLEHEM	13,458.12	9,436.03	22,894.15
BRIAR HILL	116,782.00	36,751.76	153,533.76
CASTLEWOODS	20,224.21	8,539.82	28,764.03
CATO	31,230.36	17,434.92	48,665.28
CROSS CREEK	.00	200.00	200.00
CLEAR BRANCH	5,593.06	2,608.00	8,201.06
CLEAR	36,745.19	21,224.55	57,969.74
CONCORD	8,238.62	2,023.00	10,261.62
COUNTY LINE	700.00	715.00	1,415.00
CROSS ROADS	5,744.45	2,421.38	8,165.83
CROSS CATES	100,000.00	18,473.81	118,473.81
CROSSVIEW	6,771.26	6,474.09	13,245.35
EASTSIDE PEARL	46,138.62	16,757.65	62,896.27
E'SIDE PELAHATCHIE	2,310.00	1,833.54	4,143.54
FBC BRANDON	467,437.00	94,394.78	561,831.78
FBC ANNIN	97,473.81	23,266.37	120,740.18
FBC FLORENCE	58,333.38	15,144.29	73,477.67
FBC PEARL	63,580.98	34,687.93	98,268.91
FBC RICHLAND	80,815.33	32,602.26	113,417.59
FLOWOOD	31,851.92	4,083.26	35,935.18
GRACE	1,972.54	1,496.48	3,469.02
GRANDVIEW	949.49	30.00	979.49
GUNTER ROAD	17,098.32	9,278.68	26,377.00
HICKORY RIDGE	2,771.00	2,803.00	5,574.00
JOHNS	5,544.00	6,466.00	12,010.00
JACK HARBOR	4,375.80	3,923.40	8,299.20
LAKEHURST	2,808.44	2,056.56	4,865.00
LAKEHORE	3,731.97	3,171.67	6,903.64
LEESBURG	25,281.66	7,092.17	32,373.83
LIBERTY	17,924.50	7,884.00	25,808.50
LIGHTHOUSE	666.40	285.60	952.00
LIGHTHOUSE	496.42	96.42	592.84
MCLAIRIN HEIGHTS	82,683.20	46,382.86	129,066.06
MEADOW GROVE	18,852.01	10,600.54	29,452.55
MOUNTAIN CREEK	6,450.00	4,342.90	10,792.90
MI PISCAG	16,412.89	9,005.25	25,418.14
MO ZION	48,919.56	6,662.20	55,581.76
OAKDALE	36,895.22	3,693.00	40,588.22
PARK PLACE	154,529.55	31,455.98	185,985.53
PAUL TRUITT MEM'L	21,976.36	7,328.46	29,304.82
PEARSON	20,945.07	18,312.63	39,277.70
PELAHATCHIE	48,919.56	14,678.48	63,598.04
PINELAKE	252,289.84	12,273.38	264,563.22
PROVIDENCE	3,844.18	1,923.38	5,767.56
PUCKETT	24,607.79	7,417.52	32,025.31
REINHOLD	5,854.48	4,596.88	10,451.36
ROBINHOD	2,230.94	2,693.25	4,924.23
ROCK BLUFF	2,210.00	2,110.00	4,320.00
ROCK HILL	11,782.09	6,344.14	18,126.23
STAR	82,541.78	27,731.89	110,273.67
THORN HILL	444.09	444.09	888.18
TRINITY	2,328.57	2,684.32	5,012.89
WILSON	3,200.00	6,880.32	10,080.32
WALKER HILL	16,617.69	4,448.70	21,066.39
TOTAL	2,053,776.30	631,703.17	2,685,479.47

JUST FOR THE RECORD



RAs of Osyka Church, Osyka

RAs of Osyka Church, Osyka, recently made a special name plate for their adopted grandfather, Rudolph Hines. The boys visit and make gifts throughout the year for these special people. Suzanne Cutrer is the leader. Milton Kilesch is pastor. Pictured (from left) are Chet Wilson, Major Gill, Johnathan Freeman, A. J. Freeman, Will Lucciara, Tyler Cutrer, Hines, Sawyer Ott, Mitchell Aucoin, and Luke Rhodus.

WMU Council of Mid-

Delta Association hosted a dinner theater fundraiser on Nov. 30 and Dec. 1 for Mississippi Delta Community College BSU. Tom McLaughlin, student director, presented the building fund during dinner, which was followed by the BSU drama team and a Christmas play. Over \$2,900 was donated to the building fund. McLaughlin and the building committee launched the building program about two years ago. Design and plans are now underway for a new \$900,000 building.



Mid-Delta Association dinner theater

First Church, Pascagoula, recently honored Rex and Ellon Yancey on his 10th anniversary as pastor. Ron Ellzey, chairman of the personnel committee, presented Yancey with a plaque and a check. A reception was held in their honor on Sunday afternoon, Jan. 6. Pictured (from left) are Ellzey, and Rex and Ellon Yancey.

RAs of Damascus Church, Flora, recently completed their Christian Book Project. The RAs purchased these special books and presented them to the Flora and Ridgeland libraries.



Ellzey and The Yanceys



RAs of Damascus Church, Flora

Conference begins Jan. 27

The Conference on Biblical Revival will be held Jan. 27-30 at Barton First Church, Byhalia. The times are Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; and Mon.-Wed., 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Speakers are Luther Price, Columbia, S. C.; Keith Zachary, Gloster; and Jim Holcomb, Booneville. Steve Walker, Pinola, music evangelist. For additional information, contact Charles Smith, evangelist, at (662) 395-2254.

NAMES IN THE NEWS

Daniel Memorial Church, Jackson, held deacon ordination services for Larry Fisher, J. O. Roberts, John Miller, and Bill Stewart. Clayton Bath, retired minister, gave the charge to the church and Steve Potts, pastor, gave the charge to the candidates.

Barry Brand of Briarwood Church, Meridian, has surrendered to the music ministry

and was presented a certificate by Buddy McElroy, minister of music. Brand is currently attending New Orleans Seminary extension in

Meridian. He is available as music worship leader and can be contacted at (601) 681-6009. Pictured (from left) are Brand and McElroy.



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ALL SIZES
SALES AND RENTALS

BAPTIST COLLEGE NEWS

Rebekah and Nicole Morris of Huntsville, Ala., sophomores at Blue Mountain College, were selected as UPS Scholars for the 2001-2002 session.



Rebekah and Nicole Morris

dents and their high schools for outstanding achievement in these fields of study. This year's competition will draw students from approximately 150 public and private schools from every region of the state.

Benjamin Waddle, chair of the department of health and physical education at William Carey College (WCC), recently established the **Julia Crisp Waddle Endowed Scholarship** for students planning to major in elementary education. Established by the Waddle family to honor the memory of their wife and mother, the scholarship recognizes the 30-year contribution to education to which Julia dedicated her life. The fund will be

invested with the Mississippi Baptist Foundation so that dividends and interest can be used to perpetuate the scholarship. Recipients will be required to meet certain criteria including completing the education core and maintaining a minimum GPA of 3.0. Pictured (from left) are **Bennie Waddle**, Hattiesburg; **Benjamin Waddle**, chair of the physical education department at WCC; **Jimmy Waddle**, Vicksburg; and **Chris Waddle**, Indianola, Iowa.



Bennie, Benjamin, Jimmy, and Chris Waddle



Leavelle and Fortner

Leigh Ann Fortner (pictured right) of Collierville, Tenn., presents a check in the amount of \$2,119.06 from the Mississippi College (MC) Association of Student Social Workers to the **Clinton Chapter of Habitat for Humanity** representative, **Tommy Leavelle**. Leavelle is professor and chair of the math and computing science department at MC. The money is to be used toward the completion of the next Habitat for Humanity house.

Mississippi College (MC) will sponsor the 28th annual **Mississippi Science and Mathematics Tournament** on Jan. 31 and Feb. 1, as approximately 1,400 students convene on campus. Sponsored by the departments of biology, chemistry, physics, mathematics, and computer science at MC, the tournament recognizes stu-

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PRESENTS

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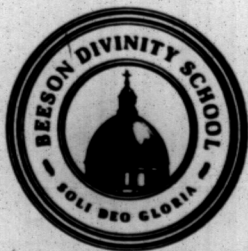
*President,
Covenant Theological Seminary,
St. Louis, Missouri*



FEBRUARY 26TH-28TH 2002

**11:00 A.M. BEESON DIVINITY CHAPEL
SAMFORD UNIVERSITY BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA**

The lectures are open to the public at no charge. A discussion luncheon will follow Wednesday's lecture (reservations required). For more information call 800-888-8266 or (205) 726-2991 or visit our Web site at <http://beeson.samford.edu>



Mississippians among NOBTS graduates

Four students with Mississippi ties received doctoral degrees from New Orleans Seminary during commencement exercises in December. Pictured standing with Charles S. Kelley Jr., seminary president (center) are Matthew Park Neff, Arcola, Chinese mission pastor at First Church, Greenville, doctor of ministry; Edward Ramsey Coutta, clinical therapist at Pine Grove Child and Adolescent Day Treatment Program in Hattiesburg, doctor of philosophy; Lloyd A. Sweatt, Amory, senior pastor at Memorial Church, doctor of ministry; and William E. Knight, Slayden, pastor at First Church, Poplarville, doctor of philosophy degree.

Other graduates listed alphabetically are Michael Ray Bird, Greenville, pastor of Southside Church, Benoit, master of divinity degree; Jeffrey Wade Box, Greenville, associate in Christian ministry degree; Charles Bradford "Brad" Day, Columbia, minister of music and worship at Agricola Church, Lucedale,

master of divinity degree in worship leadership (music track).

John Sherman Foles, Maben, pastor of Double Springs Church, Maben, master of divinity degree; Marsha Burnham Hays, Magee, youth and children's minister of Dry Creek Church, Mendenhall, master of arts in Christian education degree in youth ministry; Jamie Sue Duncan Holden, Columbus, minister of education/administration of Hillcrest Church, Jackson, master of arts in Christian education degree.

Stacy Gordon Holman, Jackson, women's ministry certificate; Tina Marie McElroy, Gloster, church music certificate degree; Susan Carol McKee, Meridian, children's

choir director at Fellowship Church, Meridian, church music certificate; Marvin H. Miller, Hattiesburg, minister of music and worship at First Church, Poplarville, master of music in church music degree in conducting.

Milton Wayne Moak, Brookhaven, pastor of Clear Branch Church, Wesson, master of divinity degree; Jeanie Loraine Polk, Columbia, music director volunteer at Pine Burr Church, Columbia, church music certificate degree; Kenneth "Ken" G. Smith, Meridian, church music certificate degree; Larry Joe Taylor, Olive Branch, minister of music of Meadow Brook Church, Byhalia, church music certificate

degree; Revis Leon Wallace, Bogue Chitto, pastor of Southway Church, Brookhaven, master of divinity degree; Tris Marcus "Mark" Wanker, Jackson, master of divinity degree in missions; Anna Wolverton, Jackson, master of divinity degree in urban missions.

Also graduates who finalized requirements and received diplomas in late summer were Hal Jackson Clark, McComb, associate pastor/minister to students of Pine Grove Church, Picayune, master of divinity degree in biblical languages; and David Henry Jensen, Tupelo, ministry to singles at First Church, Tupelo, master of divinity degree in Christian education.

Southern Baptists receive ARC award

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP) — Southern Baptist Disaster Relief efforts have won the recognition of the American Red Cross (ARC) through the organization's Agency Partnership Award, which

was recently presented to the North American Mission Board (NAMB) on behalf of disaster relief volunteers nationwide.

"On behalf of the Red Cross, I am proud to express our sincere appreciation to Southern Baptist Disaster Relief," said ARC Vice-President John Clizbe. "Since our partnership agreement was signed in 1987, we have seen their bright yellow shirts on literally hundreds of disaster relief operations, supporting our mass care efforts and sharing our commitment to care for people in need."

Southern Baptist Disaster Relief is a nationwide network of more than 24,000 volunteers operating through units sponsored by state conventions and local Baptist associations. The network is the ARC's largest and primary partner in the preparation of hot meals for distribution by the Red Cross.

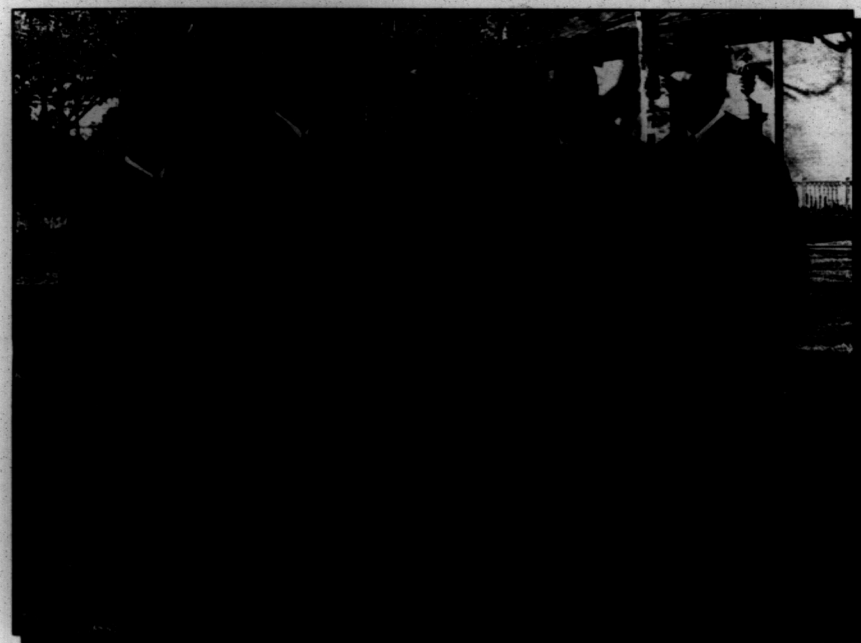
"I thank the Lord for Southern Baptists who, when the bottom falls out, stand up and serve — whatever the need," said Bob Reccord, NAMB president. "Southern Baptists went to New York and Washington following the tragedy of Sept. 11 with a

'basin and towel' in their hands. It is an honor that the Red Cross has so significantly recognized the servant heart of Southern Baptists who responded from all over America when their fellow Americans stood in need."

The award was accepted by Mickey Caison, manager of adult volunteers for NAMB and national Southern Baptist Disaster Relief coordinator, during the ARC's January Disaster Leadership Conference.

"Records from 1995 to 2000 indicate Southern Baptists have responded with Red Cross on over 500 relief efforts," Clizbe said in presenting the award. "Southern Baptist volunteers, with training in ARC disaster courses, have prepared more than six million meals."

For information on how to become a member of the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Task Force, contact Jim Didlake, director of the Men's Ministry Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3338 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 338. E-mail: jdidlake@mbcb.org.



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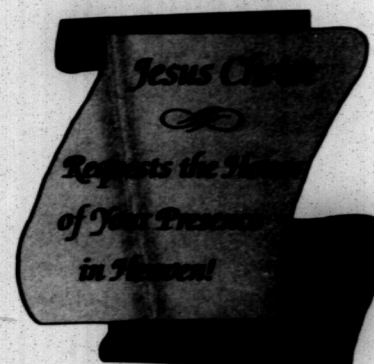
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(I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with him.
(I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name (John 1:12).

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

Criswell's life, ministry celebrated at funeral

DALLAS (BP and special reports) — W.A. Criswell, the man who wanted a church on the corner in the heart of the city, was laid to rest Jan. 16 after a memorial service at the church he pastored for half a century.

An estimated 2,700 people assembled in the downtown First Church in Dallas and utilized several remote facilities to view the funeral of Criswell, who died Jan. 10 at age 92.

across the Southern Baptist Convention filed in to be seated. The faculty of Criswell College followed wearing their academic regalia. Deacons and other church leaders made their way to assigned seats and the choir and orchestra assembled behind the platform.

At noon, First Church's music minister, Keith Ferguson, invited the congregation to join in singing "On Jordan's Stormy Banks," as Criswell's widow Betty and other family members entered.

Senior pastor Mac Brunson called those assembled to follow a church custom of kneeling in prayer to begin the service. Many pulled out the kneeling rails that Criswell had installed under pews in the mid-'70s.

"Your church is gathered today, not in defeat, but in the celebration of victory, as we come this day to glorify the Lord Jesus

Christ and to honor the life, the mission, and the man, W.A. Criswell," prayed Brunson, seeking comfort for the family and a grieving church.

"As we think back how as a 10-year old boy he came to give his life to you, but all he longed to do was have a church on the corner in the heart of the city, and from that simple desire you took a man and used him around the world to shape this planet for the cause of Jesus Christ," Brunson prayed.

Brunson said those present came to worship "not as those who have no hope, but knowing exactly where the pastor is — safe in the arms of Jesus. Use this service to reach the hearts of those who have yet to believe so, as able, even though dead, yet he speaks."

After singing the first three verses of Amazing Grace, worshipers offered a more fervent testimony through the words of the final stanza, singing, "When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun, we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we've first begun."

The president of the college founded by Criswell compared the man to the fourth-century scholar, writer, pastor, and preacher, Athanasius, "who rescued the church from the pagan intellectualism of his day."

Richard Wells, addressing Criswell's dedication to the

study of God's Word, compared it to a description of the early church father.

Wells recalled his own conversion through Criswell's ministry while, "as a lost pastor" he attended the School of the Prophets and heard Criswell preach on the assurance of salvation, "and as Dr. Criswell would like to say, 'In the balcony... down one of these stairwells, in the press of people on this lower floor, a couple, a family you or just one somebody you, come,' and that's how I became a Christian."

Representing Billy Graham, Cliff Barrows shared a message from the evangelist who considered Criswell his own pastor. Graham praised Criswell's devotion to Scripture that inspired thousands of young clergy from many denominations.

"His gracious word, his gracious spirit, and his love for the Lord will always be a great inspiration to us," Barrows said. He urged the family and church to "be strong and coura-

geous," knowing that God is with them to "see to it that all the work is finished correctly," quoting 1 Chron. 28/20.

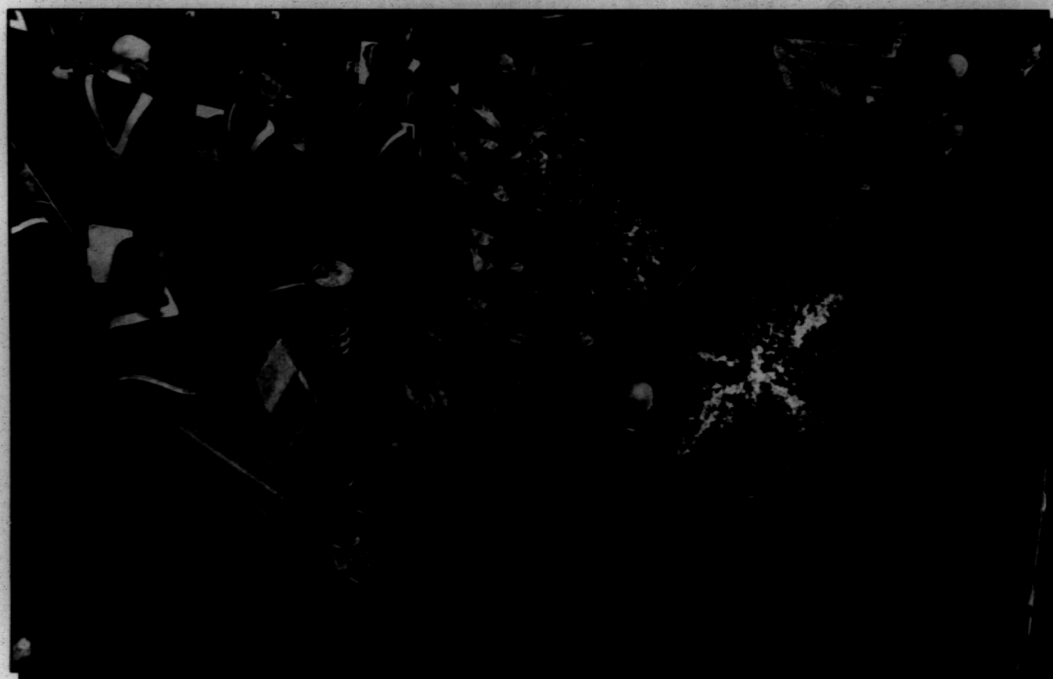
Brunson's message described the kind of man God uses "in rare moments of human history" whom God anoints to a special task.

"When W.A. Criswell drove into Dallas, no one had any idea — not the committee, not the church that called

him, the denomination he would serve, not his family, and least of all W.A. Criswell — what God would do in his life and in his ministry through this place," he said.

Brunson said it reminded him of an Old Testament prophet who appeared out of nowhere named Elijah.

Preaching from passages in 1 and 2 Kings, Brunson said God first looks for a man who is a defender of the faith. "A nation that has forgotten God needs a defender of the faith," Brunson said, describing Criswell as one who testified of the one, true God.



HOMEGOING — Family members follow the casket of W.A. Criswell after the long-time Dallas pastor's memorial service at First Church, Dallas, on Jan. 16. (BP photo)

In the sanctuary where Criswell preached through the entire Bible, church organist Jerry Aultman played through the hymnbook, offering rousing tunes such as, When the Roll Is Called Up Yonder, Standing on the Promises, and I'll Fly Away, for those arriving several hours in advance.

Aultman is a native Mississippian. He is the son of the late Howard Aultman, a longtime Mississippi pastor, and the brother of First Church, Jackson, pianist Eva Aultman Hart.

At mid-morning the auditorium was half-full, resembling a crowd gathering for Sunday worship as parishioners visited with friends and guests. For many, it was a return to the place they called home, having worshiped at First Church years ago.

Some came to honor the man who had led them to the Lord, and many remembered when they traveled a long distance just to hear Criswell preach.

By 11 o'clock, Aultman turned to quieter selections, playing I'd Rather Have Jesus, and the near-capacity crowd grew subdued.

Mourners made their way past the open casket containing the body of their pastor, a Bible resting in his right hand.

Longtime friend Jack Pogue was the last to view the body of the man for whom he'd cared during the last four years of Criswell's declining health. He stepped back, nodding for the casket to be closed in preparation for the memorial service.

Half an hour before noon, dozens of fellow ministers and denominational leaders from



AT THE GRAVESIDE — W.A. Criswell's widow Betty (second from left) holds hands with her grandson Cris Criswell (left) and his wife Rachel in a time of prayer Jan. 16 at the longtime Dallas pastor's graveside. Criswell's daughter Anne is to their right. (BP photo)

Revival dates

Central, McNeill (Pearl River Association): Jan. 27-30; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Jim Futral, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, evangelist; Ronnie Cottingham, music.

Oak Grove, Meridian: Jan. 27-30; Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Randall Creel, Lake, evangelist; Les Hull, music; Roy Dabbs, pastor.

South Louisville Church, Louisville: Feb. 10-13; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Don Taylor, Conehatta, evangelist; Doug Seaver, Huntsville, Ala., music; Rob Faulk, pastor.

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FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

Useless to useful

Philemon 8-21

By J. Michael Barnett

The little book of Philemon tells us of the runaway slave named Onesimus. He was the slave of a Christian gentleman named Philemon. Paul speaks well of Philemon in verses 3-7. He was a man of gracious love and great faith (v. 5-6). He also was an encourager to the saints of God (v. 7).

In the providence of God Onesimus found himself in the presence of Paul. He stayed with Paul for a length of time, but his return to Philemon was inevitable. Paul desired to have him stay in the place of his master, but he knew it was not the right thing to do (vv. 13-14).

A wonderful event did take place, however. Paul led

Onesimus to Christ. Onesimus would return as more than a slave to Philemon — he would be a brother in Christ. Philemon's character as a Christian was put on display for every believer. How would he handle the situation? What would he do to Onesimus? Would he value his slave as a useful and profitable servant of Christ?

The lesson learned from Philemon and Onesimus is pertinent today because of the world's view of value. In the world the young boy who cannot catch a ball, or who is too short to dunk the basketball is usually chosen last for the team.

The teenage girl who is not as "attractive" and "popular" as



Barnett

other girls does not get the attention of boys.

Even in the church, the person with "a past," the person who has "problems" or has no manifested talent is viewed as being unusable to the work of Christ and his kingdom.

The world's view of people has crept into the church and the people of God have forgotten a fundamental truth of Scripture: *But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to naught things that are: That no flesh should glory in his presence* (1 Cor. 1:27-29).

God's grace enables every believer to be used by him. Onesimus is a great example. As a matter of fact, his name means "useful."

Every believer is useful because of regeneration (vv. 8-11). While Paul was in imprisoned the providential meeting orchestrated by God himself put sinner and saint together. Paul said, "I have begotten" Onesimus. In other words he led him to Jesus and as a result Onesimus is profitable (able to be useful).

Regeneration makes one useful to the Lord. It is not simply because the talents and abilities one possesses are now on the side of the Lord. It is because God does a recreating work in the sinner who is now born again.

Eph. 2:10 expresses this truth: *For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*

Every believer is also useful because of the reception he has in Christ before God (vv. 12-16). God receives the Christian through Christ. The value that is placed upon Jesus is placed upon every believer.

God looks at the Christian as he looks at Jesus. Often times we look at others and even ourselves and see no value to God's work. No outward talents or appeal exists in our eyes. God, however, looks on the heart.

Every believer is useful because of redemption (vv. 17-21). Paul makes payment for the trouble and expense Onesimus might have caused. In Christ every believer is redeemed from sin. Every believer is bought with a price and is to glorify God (see 1 Cor. 6:20).

The runaway slave returned and was received as a brother. Every believer is useful to God because of the relationship he has in Christ (v. 16). This is the pinnacle reason why God places great value on every believer. He can use every believer for his eternal work because of the great love and value he places on him or her.

Barnett is pastor of First Church, Ocean Springs.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Worshiping God in covenant life

Deuteronomy 12:1-17:7

By Carleen McGraw

Worship is important to the One worshiped, and to the one worshipping. To worship our living Lord is important in the life of every Christian today, and it was important for God's people in Moses' day.

As we read these selected chapters, we find that worship of the Lord is not to be a haphazard activity.

In Deuteronomy 12, Moses warns the people that they are not to worship the Lord as the Canaanites worshiped their gods "on the high mountains and on the hills and under every spreading tree" (v. 2).

When they are settled in the Promised Land, God's people are to "seek the place the Lord

your God will choose from among all your tribes to put his name there for his dwelling. To that place you must go; there bring your burnt offerings and sacrifices, your tithes and special gifts, what you have vowed to give and your freewill offerings . . ." (12:5, 6).

The amount, the kind, and the place of offering were important in worship. Moses told the people to "be sure to set aside a tenth of all that your fields produce each year" (14:22), and bring it to the place the Lord will "choose as a dwelling for his name, so that you may revere the Lord your God always" (14:23).

Attitude played a major role in worship. Moses told the



McGraw

people to go to the place the Lord God would choose, bring their offerings, and "there in the presence of the Lord your God, you and your families shall eat and shall rejoice in everything you put your hand to, because the Lord your God has blessed you" (v. 7). They and their families were to be joyful and rejoice in worship.

There were three great annual festivals all Israelite males were required to attend. "Three times a year all your men must appear before the Lord your God at the place he will choose: at the Feast of Unleavened Bread (the Passover), the Feast of Weeks and the Feast of Tabernacles. No man should appear before the Lord empty-handed: Each of you must bring a gift in proportion to the way the Lord your God has blessed you" (16:16, 17).

The Passover, celebrated in the spring, commemorated the night the Lord "passed over" the Israelite homes in Egypt

where the door posts had been sprinkled with the blood of the lamb, sparing the first born in the family — the night the Lord brought them out of Egyptian slavery.

Fifty days later, they were to observe the Feast of Weeks "by giving a freewill offering in proportion to the blessings the Lord your God has given you" (16:10).

The Feast of Tabernacles was to be celebrated "after you have gathered the produce of your threshing floor and your winepress" (16:13). These were festive occasions of worship; they were to "be joyful" and "rejoice before the Lord your God." Read more about these festivals in Leviticus 23 and Numbers 28-29.

Scattered throughout these five chapters in Deuteronomy, we find that the Lord chose the place where his people would come together for worship; he specified the regular times of worship, and the special occasions for worship. They were to be joyful, rejoicing before the Lord as they worshiped him.

As an expression of their gratitude and thanksgiving: they were to bring a tithe of all they had harvested to the place the Lord had chosen "so that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hands" (14:29).

In addition to the tithe, they were to bring freewill offerings "in proportion to the blessings the Lord your God has given you. And rejoice before the Lord your God . . ." (16:10b, 11).

The place, the tithes and offerings, the attitude, the response in worship set forth by Moses in his day are still essential as we worship our Lord today — with one exception. The blood of animals sacrificed for the sins of the people is no longer necessary.

God himself provided the blood sacrifice for us when "He gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). "Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift" (2 Cor. 9:15).

McGraw is a member of First Church, Louisville.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

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News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

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Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

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All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

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Judge: valid issues raised in chaplain suit

WASHINGTON (BP) — A federal court judge has ruled that a two-year-old class-action lawsuit alleging discrimination by the U.S. Navy against evangelical chaplains can proceed.

tiffs had successfully stated a claim that the military's policies violate the First Amendment.

He also applied a "strict scrutiny" standard to the cases, which refers to a prior Supreme Court ruling that the government cannot favor one religion over another.

"The court holds that the plaintiffs have stated a claim that the [Navy] defendants' policies and practices relating to the hiring and retention of its chaplains are not justified by a compelling government objective and are not narrowly tailored to accomplish that objective," Urbina wrote.

In summarizing claims related to alleged First Amendment violations, the judge noted a string of allegations. Among them are:

- ♦ Forcing non-liturgical churches to hold services off base in inadequate, substandard facilities while Catholics and liturgical Protestants enjoyed spacious facilities on post.

- ♦ Senior Catholic and liturgical chaplains intentionally giving non-liturgical chaplains lower ratings solely because of their religious identification.

- ♦ Using a two-tiered system of discipline, with liturgical chaplains receiving lighter

punishment than non-liturgical for similar offenses.

- ♦ Requiring non-liturgical chaplains to officiate at liturgical Protestant services, but not requiring liturgicals to officiate at non-liturgical services.

"In all these allegations, the plaintiffs charge that because the Navy treats non-liturgical Christian chaplains less favorably, the defendants' policies ... serve to impair or impede the plaintiffs' free exercise of religion," Urbina wrote. "Because the plaintiffs have stated a claim that these policies ... do not pass the strict-scrutiny test, these allegations survive the defendants' motion to dismiss."

Vienna, Va., attorney Art Schulcz hailed the judge's ruling, saying it shows that he carefully examined the law.

"A 62-page ruling on a motion to dismiss is unheard of," said Schulcz, a 1966 West Point graduate and retired Army officer. "He agreed with 90 to 95% of our arguments. We've been blessed with a judge who understands the law."

The U.S. Justice Department has a policy against commenting on court rulings.

In addition to the claim of First Amendment violations, Urbina's order upheld the plaintiffs' right to press their cases on claims regarding the chaplaincy promotion process

and alleged "constructive discharge," which refers to an employer making working conditions so miserable an employee quits voluntarily.

However, the judge denied a request by Schulcz to allow one participant to proceed using a pseudonym because of the fear of retaliation by the Navy.

Urbina also called for additional briefs on several claims he said were not addressed sufficiently — the plaintiffs' allegation of illegal retaliation by the Navy for filing the suit, the Chief of Chaplains' role in the promotion process, and an alleged violation of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

Despite the ruling, no trial date or pre-trial hearings have been set. The court must still determine whether to consolidate the class-action lawsuit and the Full Gospel case for trial.

It already ruled the two would be considered simultaneously regarding the Navy's motions to dismiss both.

Although the Chaplaincy of Full Gospel Churches is not a class-action case, it represents eight current or former chaplains in its lawsuit.

While there are 17 plaintiffs in the class action, Schulcz said 15 others have requested to join the lawsuit. He said a determination will be reached after a future conference with the judge.



DESERT DEVOTIONS — U.S. military Chaplain David Wilder leads a desert worship service in Afghanistan for Marines, who pulled up chairs in a metal building on an operational airfield. The U.S. Navy has been accused of discriminating against evangelical chaplains. (BP Photo)

The case includes five current or former Southern Baptist chaplains. In a lengthy ruling announced Jan. 10, U.S. District Court Judge Ricardo Urbina said the plaintiffs in the class action suit, and a second filed by the Chaplaincy of Full Gospel Churches, have raised valid constitutional issues.

In a 62-page order, the judge denied the Navy's motion to dismiss the cases, saying the plain-

Discrimination concern joined by church group

TAYLORS, S.C. (BP) — An association of independent churches with approximately 1.4 million members has followed in the footsteps of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) with a resolution calling on the Navy to eliminate discrimination against evangelical chaplains.

Passed at the 2001 annual convention of the Associated Gospel Churches (AGC) in Greencastle, Ohio, the resolution is similar to one adopted at last June's annual SBC meeting. The resolution also prompted Billy Baugham, chairman of the AGC's Commission on Chaplains, to lodge a formal complaint with Secretary of the Navy Gordon England.

Several concerns listed in his letter are similar to those raised in a class-action lawsuit that includes five Southern Baptists. A former AGC chaplain is part of the class action and two more want to join the suit.

"Regardless of how stellar the record of individual chaplains has been, only three of our chaplains have been promoted to the rank of commander," said Baugham, whose agency has endorsed 75 chaplains currently on duty. "Only one [was promoted] to the rank of captain in our history."

In addition, there has never been an AGC chaplain assigned to any key leadership position within the Navy Chaplain Corps, such as fleet chaplain, major claimant chaplain or regional chaplain.

Baugham wrote to England about three weeks after the AGC passed its resolution last August. However, he just released a copy of the letter to Baptist Press, because he had been waiting for an official response.

An answer came recently from Cmdr. L.J. Braddock, director of the Navy's equal opportunity division, denying any bias occurred based on an individual's denominational ties.



RECOGNITION FOR SERVICE — Chaplain Michael Wright (left), who left the Navy last fall, received a meritorious service medal from the commanding officer of Naval Support Activity, Capt. Wanda Riddle, in Millington, Tenn. He has complained the Navy discriminates in the treatment of evangelical chaplains. (BP photo)

"There is currently no specific indication of religious discrimination occurring in Chaplain Corps promotions," Braddock wrote. "It is standard practice for all active and reserve Navy Chaplain Corps promotion boards to remove any language in a chaplain's record that reflects his or her denomination."

In his correspondence last August, Baugham named former AGC chaplain and class-action participant Michael Wright as an example of the Navy's discrimination.

He said Wright's "absolutely outstanding" record included:

- ♦ No B's in his fitness reports, which are graded evaluations used at promotion board hearings.

- ♦ Recommendations for early promotions on all but one report, which was a "must promote."

- ♦ Consistently high marks on physical readiness tests.

- ♦ Ranking first above three other, more senior chaplains during 20 years of Navy service.

Despite this record, the Navy twice failed to select him for commander and informed him last summer that he had to retire. Wright left the military last November, Baugham said.

The AGC chaplaincy leader said that on his next-to-last fitness report, Wright ranked above the command chaplain under whom he served.

Baugham's allegations parallel those aired in a Department of Defense (DOD) report which was included as an exhibit in the class-action lawsuit. The report followed an investigation into claims by now-retired chaplain Stan Aufderheide of improprieties in a promotion board hearing. The DOD report included an admission that one chaplain was promoted over another with a superior record because of the "needs of the Navy."

It also mentioned that one chaplain was promoted despite failing to meet body fat standards nine consecutive times.

"Simply stated, sir, that is outrageous," Baugham wrote. "[It] voids any claim to neutrality in either selection or assignment that the Navy may claim. It additionally completely erodes any believability Chaplain Corps officials may have had with regard to these matters."

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Clue: U = F

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Luke Ten: Twenty.